

CE2003 Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics (3 Credits)

Fall 2020

Format: Due to the current pandemic the course will take a different format. It will be divided into two parts. Part I uses asynchronous platforms such as posted lectures, videos, and voicethread, etc. on moodle. These weekly 90 minute sessions are in addition to regular class preparation and study and will be complete by Wednesday evenings before Thursday class discussion. Part II is a synchronous platform on ZOOM that will take place Thursdays 1-2:30

EXCEPTION: September 7th CLASS will be held from 12:40-3:30—from this meeting we will then set up the rest of the meetings.

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Office Hours: By ZOOM appointment

Course Description

This seminar course is designed to introduce students to Catholic thinking on sexuality as experienced in various cultural contexts and in dialogue with other faith traditions. This investigation includes an examination of the official Church teachings and studies by leading theologians that explore topics such as marriage, family life, single life, and celibacy. The goal is to present a wide range of positions within the Christian tradition so that students can discuss and debate the available alternatives and come to their own reasoned positions concerning premarital sex, marital sex, domestic violence, gender, sexual abuse, pornography, AIDS, and homosexuality.

The content of the course and the plan for teaching and learning emerges from the Institutional and Program Goals of DSPT. These directives offer guidance not only for specific courses of the Dominican School but also represent the learning goals throughout the GTU. The goals and outcomes target ways that this study contributes to intellectual, moral and spiritual development of students.

Course Goals and Outcomes: *These course goals and outcomes help students to meet their program goals for an MA in theology. (See Appendix A)*

At the end of the course, students will:

1. *IOI; ThG1,2, and 5; DivG1, 2* Have a comprehensive understanding of human sexuality as constitutive to human flourishing through:
 - a. Learning how Christian texts, tradition, reason, and experience are used in developing sexual ethics.
 - b. Evaluating how Catholic teachings on human sexuality contribute to the wellbeing of persons and the common good in a pluralistic society.
 - c. Investigating varying perspectives regarding human sexuality as presented by Christian ethicists.

2. *IO1, IO2; ThG 1 and 5; DivG 2 and 3* Possess a foundational knowledge of the Catholic Church's teaching on Marriage, Family, Single Life, and Celibate Life as experienced in various multi-cultural contexts and in dialog with other social groups and religious traditions through:
 - a. Recognizing and appreciating diverse contextual approaches concerning human sexuality.
 - b. Addressing ways cultures receive and inform Catholic teachings

3. *IO3, IO4; ThG 3 and 4; DivG 1, 4 and 5* Engage in contemporary research and public debate concerning premarital sex, marital sex, domestic violence, gender, sexual abuse, pornography, AIDS, and homosexuality through:
 - a. Critically reading and analyzing positions of theologians and religious leaders
 - b. Integrating theology with other disciplines as they develop their ethical positions on topics presented.
 - c. Presenting their own argumentation in speaking and writing

These Goals and Outcomes will be fulfilled through completing the Course Requirements

There will be adjustments for students taking the course for an advance level. The students will write a final research paper of 20 – 25 pages instead of the original final paper of 2,500 words. They will be expected to participate in the discussion at a higher level not only leading the class discussion but also present a particular sexual ethics issue in the class for 45 minutes bringing in special readings and materials assigned by the professor in addition to the introductory readings. They will be able to do critical thinking on the pastoral care on marriage and the family and on issues like divorce; homosexuals; persons living with HIV-AIDS and victims of sexual abuse.

1. Class Discussions: Students will attend all class meetings, prepare by completing assignment and contribute fully to the class discussions. (30% of grade)

2. Leading Class Discussions: Students will take turns leading a class discussion (15% of grade)

3. Research and Dissemination: (25% of grade)
Mid-term [8-10] Exploring any of the themes from Section I or II of the Course. The paper focuses on the research and discussion of the material assigned to the subsection. It should be comprised of an analytical study of the documents/books/articles that focus on an aspect of human sexuality and the Church's teaching. You then either support or challenge these ideas/proposals with your own arguments/ideas while also showing how this research contributes to a deeper understanding of human sexuality. (Due November 2)

Project: Designing a workshop/webinar of human sexuality. This includes, profile of targeted community, proposal for the workshop (rationale, methodology, plan [with workshop resources and bibliography] and a sample lesson plan [in detail].

The workshop/webinar can explore any of the following: Sex and Virtue, Marriage and Family, or various pastoral concerns and social justice issues in fostering healthy relationships in family, church, and society. (Due December 21)

Attendance and Participation

THIS COURSE IS A SEMINAR thus in this format each student will be required to view the video lectures, complete readings and writing assignments so to be prepared for class discussion. This course will rely heavily on class discussion, participation, and presentations; consequently, it is vital that students be present and prepared to participate in each class session.

Completion of Assignments

Students must complete each of the assignments stated above to receive a final grade

Grading

Grading criteria of the above four items: To what extent does the student demonstrate that s/he (1) comprehends the main points of the readings by making connections between themes and ideas of the readings and the topic of the assignments; (2) presents understanding and comments in a clear and timely fashion both orally and in writing; (3) shows creativity or originality in presenting and applying the materials by linking the readings with life experience and social realities.

All assignments and participation receive a point/percentage grade, which will be averaged together and submitted as a letter grade at the end of the class. The following are grade / percentage equivalencies: A: 100-93; A-: 92-90 B+: 89-87; B: 86-83; B-: 82-80 C+: 79-77; C: 76-73; C-: 72-70 F: 69-0

Technology Requirements

All students should have access to technology sufficient to complete the course successfully. This includes a computer, laptop, or tablet, with webcam & microphone, with an updated operating system (Windows, Mac, Linux) and an updated internet browser (Chrome, Firefox); high speed internet bandwidth (preferably 10 mbps or greater but at least 3 mbps); Zoom and Moodle software, and the ability to use them. If students experience any difficulties with Moodle, Zoom, or other technology, they can contact Moodle support at moodle@gtu.edu. Students will receive a response within 24 hours

Course Materials

The course readings will help us meet the goals articulated in the course description. These documents, books, articles, case studies and media presentations offer insights that will help us deepen our understanding of human sexuality. Official Catholic teaching on human sexuality is well represented in these materials. I have also included writings and lectures by various theologians who interpret these teachings. An understanding of sexuality, marriage, and family in various faith traditions and cultural contexts are also given importance.

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. *Sex, Gender, and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge, University Press, 1998. ISBN-13: 978-0521578486 or ISBN-10: 0521578485 \$30.22 (Used Copies Available)

Pope Francis. *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia): On Love in the Family*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2016. ISBN-10: 1681920026 or ISBN-13: 978-1681920023. \$11.95

Church Documents and other materials will be made available through use of the library reserve or blackboard systems or these websites:

Vatican www.vatican.va US Bishops www.usccb.org

Additional Readings on Moodle. The materials will be reproduced and electronically distributed pursuant to the “Fair Use” (sec 107) and the Technology, Education, and Copyright Law (U.S. Code, title 17) Articles and Chapters listed is for one time use only in this course.

Video and Internet Resources: These materials are listed below according to themes and topics. All of these materials are in the public domain.

Reference Materials: These texts are available at GTU library reserve and certain excerpts on MOODLE

Ashley, Benedict OP, De Blois, and O’Rourke. *Catholic Health Care Ethics: A Catholic Theological Analysis*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2006. Fifth Edition.

Coleman, Gerald, D. *Homosexuality: Catholic Teaching and Pastoral Practice*, New York: Paulist Press, 1995.

Farley, Margaret, “An Ethic for Same-Sex Relations,” in *Dialogue About Catholic Social Teaching* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993.

Genovesi, Vincent J. *In Pursuit of Love: Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality*. 2nd Ed. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press., 1998.

Jung, Patricia Beattie ed. *Sexual Diversity and Catholicism: Toward the Development of Moral Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001

Kavanaugh, John F. *Following Christ in a Consumer Society: The Spirituality of Cultural Resistance*. 25th anniversary ed. Maryknoll, N.Y: Orbis Books, 2006.

O.Murchu, Diarmuid. *Poverty, Celibacy and Obedience: A Radical Option for Life*. New York, Crossroads, 1999.

Pope, Stephen J. ed. *Ethics of Aquinas*. Georgetown: Georgetown University Press, 2000

Scott, Kieran and Harold Daly Horell, *Human Sexuality in the Catholic Tradition*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007

Spohn, William C. *What Are They Saying about Scripture and Ethics?* Fully rev. and expanded ed. New York: Paulist Press, 1995.

Wilcox, W. Bradford, and Nicholas H. Wolfinger. *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex, Love, and Marriage among African Americans and Latinos*. 1 edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Topics and Weekly Assignments

I. Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality: General Introduction

September 10, 17, 24 and October 1

What is sexuality? What are the foundations for Catholic sexual ethics? What is the relationship between care of the body, human sexuality, and our call to Christian discipleship? Can we make a case for sexual virtue?

September 10: The Meaning of Human Sexuality

Narratives/Case Study

What is Hook-Up Culture? [22 minute podcast] <https://www.scu.edu/the-big-q/hook-up-culture/>

Articles and Chapters on Moodle:

Ferder and Heagle, "Tender Fires: The Spiritual Promise of Sexuality"

Stiltner, Introduction and Chapter One: *Toward Thriving Communities*

Videos on Moodle:

Definition of Terms: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkF_gV21XMo

Definition of Love C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*: What is Eros?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WReLIE08Dnc&list=PLvZA7BE3PJBbQGq7AiABFc0hegBRizsSF&index=2>

(All four video of CS Lewis are also helpful)

September 17: Call to Holiness, Call to Justice

Video: The Great Divorce: Sexual Ethics and Human Flourishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVmgoSVnEFU>

Reading of Texts

Cahill, Chapters 1 and 2

Articles/Chapters on Moodle:

Christology and Ethics: Kavanaugh, John Kavanaugh, *Following Christ in a Consumer Society: The Spirituality of Cultural Resistance*.

Documents:

Gaudium et spes

http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html

September 24: The Case for Sexual Virtue

How might virtue theory deepen our understanding of human sexuality? How is our growth in sexual maturity rooted in a freedom for excellence? What is the relationship between virtue, human sexuality, and care of the body?

Articles/Chapters on Moodle:

Virtue Theory: Stiltner, Chapters Two “Virtue: Norms for Acting and Living” (Optional: Chapter Three: “Human Flourishing: The Purpose of Life and the Purpose of Ethics”)

Aquinas: On the Emotions and Virtue of Temperance

Nicholas E. Lombardo, OP Chapters Four and Five “Passion, Reason, and Virtue” and “Original Sin, Grace, and Human Affectivity” in *The Logic of Desire*

October 1: The Case for Sexual Virtue (Continued)

Sexual Morality: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RkZXZx6HCI>

Reading of Texts

Cahill, Chapter 3 and 4: “Particular Experiences, Shared Goods,” and “The Body in Context”

Chapters/Articles on Moodle

Genovesi, “Human Sexuality” in *The Pursuit of Love*

McCarthy, *Sexual Virtue*: Chapters One and Two. “Sexual Positions” and “Sexual Ethics”

II: Human Sexuality and Character: Marriage, Family and Vowed Life

October 8, 15, 22, November 5

Matrimony: What is marital sexuality according to the Catholic Church’s teaching? How do you understand matrimony as a sacrament? How are married persons called to virtue? How are they ministers for the Church and society?

October 8: Marriage and Family Life: Part 1

Narratives/Case Studies

20 Most Common Problems Faced by Married Couples

<https://www.marriage.com/advice/relationship/8-common-problems-in-married-life/>

Articles/Chapters on Moodle

Marriage: A Proposal: <https://issuu.com/church21c/docs/c21-fall-2007>

Reading of Texts

Cahill, Chapters 5 and 6: “Sex, Gender, and the Early Church” and “Sex, Marriage, and Family in Christian Tradition”

Church Documents

Familiaris Consortio (22 November 1982) Apostolic Exhortation Pope John Paul II (Sections)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html

October 15: Marriage and Family Life: Part 2Narratives/Case Studies

Sections from *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex and Love among African Americans and Latinos*

Articles and Chapters on Moodle: Stiltner, Brian, *Toward Thriving Communities: Virtue Ethics as Social Ethics*, Chapter 5: “Families: First Teachers and Promoters of the Common Good”

Church Documents

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* 1-5, 9

October 22: Marriage and Family Life: Part 3Narratives/Case Studies

Marriage Preparation for Parishes: Interview with Reverend Peter Pacini, CSC

Birth Regulation:

IVF and the Catholic Couple: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=7985>

Articles and Chapters on Moodle

Ashley, Deblois, and O’Rourke, Chapter 3: “Sexuality and Reproduction”

Reading of Texts

Cahill, Chapter 7: “New Birth Technologies and the Public Argument”

Church Documents

Pontifical Academy for Life, “The Dignity of Human Procreation and Reproductive Technologies: Anthropological and Ethical Aspects” (2004)

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pont-acd_life_doc_20040316_x-gen-assembly-final_en.html

November 5: Vow of Celibacy in Priesthood and Religious LifeNarratives/Case Studies

Our Congregations: History and Constitutions

Sexual Scandals in the Church

Articles and Chapters on Moodle:

Scott and Horell, *Human Sexuality in the Catholic Tradition*, Chapter 9: “The Gift of Celibacy”

O’Murchu, *Poverty, Celibacy and Obedience*, Chapters 2 and 3: “The Nature of Vowed Commitment” and “Celibacy: Is Nonviolent Sexuality Possible?”

Church Documents

Vita Consecrata (1996) On the Consecrated Life and its Mission in the Church and in the World

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_25031996_vita-consecrata.html

III: Human Sexuality: Same-Sex Attraction, Bisexuality, and Transgender Persons November 12 and 19

What is same-sex attraction, transgender identity, and bisexuality? What are the Church teachings and what should be the Church's pastoral outreach?

Narratives/Case Studies

Video: *Growing up Trans*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/growing-up-trans/>

Martin, James, Building a Bridge: The Catholic Church and the LGBT Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlnKTPDknZQ>

Documents:

- a. *Letter on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons* (1 October 1986) Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19861001_homosexual-persons_en.html
- b. *Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers* (10 September 1997) Statement of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on Marriage and Family
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/homosexuality/always-our-children.cfm>
- c. *Ministry to Persons with Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care* Statement of the United States Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006.
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/homosexuality/upload/ministry-persons-homosexual-inclination-2006.pdf>

Articles and Chapters on Moodle:

Porter, Jean "The Natural Law and Innovative Forms of Marriage: A Reconsideration" *Journal of Christian Ethics*

Coleman, Gerald, Chapters 1 and 8: "What Does It Mean to Be Homosexual?" and "Homosexuality: Pastoral, Personal and Professional Reflections" *Homosexuality: Catholic Teaching and Pastoral Practice*.

Farley, Margaret, "An Ethic for Same-Sex Relations," in *Dialogue About Catholic Social Teaching*

Whitehead, James, and Evelyn, "Transgender Lives: From Bewilderment to God's Extravagance."

IV. Church as Educator and Advocate December 3 and 10

How does the Church promote a holistic understanding of sexuality and human development? How do we witness to this holistic approach?

Narratives and Case Studies

Current Concerns: Family Abuse, Abortion, Pedophilia, Human Trafficking

Abortion: “A Conversation with a Former Abortionist: Full Interview with Dr. Anthony Levatino”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHNzoZ4oheU>

Family Abuse, Forced Marriages: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_Xh5MXA7yY

“Human trafficking is all around you...”

https://www.ted.com/talks/noy_thrupkaew_human_trafficking_is_all_around_you_this_is_how_it_works

Articles and Chapters on Moodle

Grabowski, *Sex and Virtue*, Chapter 7: “Teaching Sex: Education, Sexuality, and Character”

Church Documents

Amoris Laetitia, Chapters 6-8

APPENDIX A

DSPT Institutional Goals and Course Goals

Institutional Goals:

1. ^{IG1} Pedagogical Goal: Deep Learning

OUTCOMES

^{IO1} Integrative Thinking: the ability to recognize, understand, retain, integrate, and apply the fundamental principles operative in a field of inquiry, and use them to make synthetic judgments.

^{IO2} Intellectual Humility: an orientation of mind and heart that fosters intellectual collaboration, precludes both rigidity and passivity of mind, and recognizes that contrary opinions are not a threat, but provide the opportunity to test and deepen one's own grasp of the truth.

^{IO3} Self-Direction: the disposition to take primary responsibility for one's own education, manifested in a keen intellectual interest in the topic of studies, and the ability to teach oneself through a habit of skilled and responsible research and resilient exploration.

2. ^{IG2} Vocational Goal: Collaborative Leadership

OUTCOMES

^{IO4} Ability to Collaborate: expressed in good listening and communication skills which foster decisions stemming from and leading to an open, transparent, and mutually enriching dialog with others in order that the gifts of all can be appropriately acknowledged and utilized

As a philosophical and theological school we believe that at the end of this course students will have applied integrative thinking, cultivated intellectual humility, and maintained good self direction during the course of study. They will also acquire a solid foundation of the topics explored by this specific course and discover ways for the application of this knowledge through further research, teaching or pastoral care.

MA Theology Program Goals

^{ThG 1} Foundational knowledge of the fundamental areas of theological inquiry in the Roman Catholic tradition (Biblical Studies, historical theology, dogmatic theology, and moral theology);

^{ThG 2} Specialized knowledge of one area of theological inquiry (area of concentration) chosen by the student;

^{ThG 3} Ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly writing;

^{ThG 4} Ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through oral presentations and discussions;

ThG 5 Ability to integrate contemporary theological issues with the tradition of the Catholic Church, and where possible with the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Masters of Divinity Program Goals

DivG 1 [communication] to communicate simply, accurately, and effectively the theological tradition of the Roman Catholic Church through preaching, teaching, and writing;

DivG 2 [evaluation] to analyze, assess, and critique theological perspectives and situations through scriptural, historical, systematic, and pastoral theological methods, and to assist others in doing the same;

DivG 3 [application] to apply Catholic teaching and theology, especially as exemplified by St. Thomas Aquinas, to pastoral situations, recognizing both the difficulties and the opportunities they present;

DivG 4 [collaboration] to lead and to work collaboratively with others in a just, charitable, and generous manner, respecting the relevant cultural, social, and ecclesial circumstances, all the while maintaining professional, ethical boundaries;

DivG 5 [Church-uniting] to foster Church communion, demonstrated through consistent dedication to community life, participation in prayer, and leading others in worship and theological reflection

GOALS of MA Program

GTU MA 1 Obtain a basic understanding of theological or religious studies as preparation for doctoral work or as an academic foundation or secondary school teaching, educational or social justice ministries, or religious leadership in non-profit sector

GTU MA 2 Engage in ecumenical and interreligious learning opportunities through respectful dialogue

GTU MA 3 Demonstrate their focused learning of a particular theological or religious concentration by producing a research project of high academic standards