

## **CE2003 Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics in a Pluralistic Context (3 Credits)**

Spring 2019 Thursdays 12:40-3:30 Classroom: DSPT 2

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### **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 and across other religions, 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. Have a comprehensive understanding of human sexuality as constitutive to human flourishing through:
  - a. Learning how sacred texts, tradition, reason, and experience are used in developing sexual ethics for religious traditions
  - b. Recognizing how religious teachings on human sexuality contribute to the wellbeing of persons and the common good in a pluralistic society.
2. 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 religious traditions through:
  - a. Addressing ways cultures receive and inform Catholic teachings
  - b. Recognizing and appreciating diverse contextual approaches concerning human sexuality.

3. 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

1. Class Discussions: Students will attend all class meetings, prepare by completing assignments and contribute fully to the class discussions. (30% of grade)
2. Leading Class Discussions: Students will take turns preparing and leading the class discussion on contemporary concerns of sexuality. (15% of grade)
3. Class Blog Contributions (Moodle Entries) (30% of grade)  
Students will post weekly reflections covering topics related to class discussions and readings. They will also reply to ONE student's posts to create a dialogue between class members.
4. Research and Writing: TWO papers (Mid-term [1,000 words] and Final [2,500 words] ) exploring topics of the course study. The final paper must engage either a contextual and/or comparative study. (25% of grade)

Due Dates: April 4, May 23

- a. Style: Follow Turabian Format. 12pt Times Roman Font. Double spaced. This means you ALWAYS use footnotes and include a bibliography or works cited in your papers
- b. General Topics: The paper can be based on the following:
  - i. Teaching Human Sexuality in a Pluralistic Society
  - ii. Marriage and Family
  - iii. Homosexuality
  - iv. Pastoral Issues in Sexual Ethics

### **Attendance and Participation**

THIS COURSE IS A SEMINAR thus in this format each student will be required to do readings and come 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

## 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 (Many 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](http://www.vatican.va) US Bishops [www.usccb.org](http://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  
Ali, Kecia. *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence*. 1 edition. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2006.

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

Borowitz, Eugene B. *Choosing a Sex Ethic: A Jewish Inquiry*. Hillel Library Series. New York: Published by Schocken Books for B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, 1969.

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.

Ouellet, Marc. *Mystery and Sacrament of Love: A Theology of Marriage and the Family for the New Evangelization*. Grand Rapids Michigan: Eerdmans Pub. Company, 2015.

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

Ruttenberg, Danya, ed. *The Passionate Torah: Sex and Judaism*. New York: New York University Press, 2009.

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

Shannon, Thomas A., ed. *Bioethics: Fourth Edition*. Mahwah, N.J: Paulist Press, 1993.

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

#### February 7

**What is sexuality? What are the foundations for Catholic sexual ethics? What is psychosexual development? What is the relationship between care of the body, human sexuality, and our call to Christian discipleship?**

#### Narratives/Case Study

Asian Women's Struggle: Our Century's Greatest Injustice

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sheryl\\_wudunn\\_our\\_century\\_s\\_greatest\\_injustice?language=en#t-1058316](https://www.ted.com/talks/sheryl_wudunn_our_century_s_greatest_injustice?language=en#t-1058316)

#### Teen Dating:

<http://www.scu.edu/r/ethics-center/ethicsblog/thebigq/11878/Sleeping-Around>

#### Articles and Chapters on Moodle:

Genovesi, *In Pursuit of Love*, Chapter 1: "The Meaning and Spirit of Christian Living"

#### Reading of Texts:

Cahill, Lisa, *Sex, Gender and Christian Ethics*, Chapters 1 and 2: "Sex, Gender, and the Problem of Moral Argument" and "Feminism and Foundations"

**February 14 and February 21--How is our growth in goodness rooted in a freedom for excellence? What is the relationship between virtue, human sexuality, and care of the body?**

#### February 14

##### Narratives/Case Studies (TBA)

##### Articles/Chapters on Moodle

Scripture and Ethics: Spohn, William *What are They Saying about Scripture and Ethics?*

Bible and Ethics: Jung, Beattie Patricia, *Sexuality Diversity and Catholicism*, Chapter 5: "The Promise of Postmodern Hermeneutics for Biblical Renewal in Moral Theology"

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

Virtue Ethics: "Charity," "Justice," and "Temperance" in *Ethics of Aquinas*.

Genovesi, Chapter 4: "A Context for the Meaning and Morality of Sexuality"

#### February 21

View this video—The Great Divorce: Sexual Ethics and Human Flourishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVmg0SVnEFU>

Reading of Texts

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

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

**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?**

**February 28**Narratives/Case Studies

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

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

Articles/Chapters on Moodle

Ouellet, Marc Cardinal. *Mystery and Sacrament of Love: A Theology of Marriage and the Family for the New Evangelization*, Chapters 3: “The Theology of Sacramental Marriage”

**March 4**Reading of Texts

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

Church Documents*Gaudium et spes*

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html)

*Humanae Vitae* (25 July 1968) Encyclical Letter Pope Paul VI.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html)

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

**March 11****Family**Narratives/Case Studies

On Moodle: 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

**March 18**

**OTHER PERSPECTIVES**

**Human Sexuality: Judaism and Islam**

Borowitz, Eugene B., *Choosing a Sex Ethic: A Jewish Inquiry*, Chapter 5: “The Jewish Experience”

Ruttenberg, Danya, ed. *The Passionate Torah: Sex and Judaism*. New York: New York University Press, 2009.

Ali, Kecia. *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur’an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2006.

**April 4**

**OTHER PERSPECTIVES**

**Human Sexuality and Asian Context**

**Perspectives from India, Philippines, and Africa**

Desai, Sonalde and Lester Andrist, “Romance and Sex: Pre-Marital Partnership Formation among Young Women and Men, Pune District, India.” *Gender Scripts and Age at Marriage in India*

Parashar, Archana. "Gender Inequality and Religious Personal Laws in India." *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 14, no. 2 (2008): 103-112.

Newbiggin, Eleanor. "Personal Law and Citizenship in India's Transition to Independence." *Modern Asian Studies* 45, no. 1 (2011): 7-32.

Nussbaum, Martha C. “Sex, Laws, and Inequality: What India Can Teach the United States.” *Daedalus* 131, no. 1 (2002): 95–106.

**April 11**

**Birth Technologies**

Narratives/Case Studies

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”

McCormick, Richard A., “Therapy or Tampering: The Ethics of Reproductive Technology and the Development of Doctrine” in *Bioethics* edited by Thomas A. Shannon, 1993.

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

### **April 18**

#### **Celibacy: Priesthood and Religious Life**

##### Narratives/Case Studies

Our Congregations: History and Constitutions

On Moodle: 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

#### APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

*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](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**

### **April 25 and May 2**

**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](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.” *Journal of*

#### **IV: Church as Educator and Advocate**

**May 9 and May 16**

**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](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](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. <sup>IG1</sup> Pedagogical Goal: Deep Learning**

##### *OUTCOMES*

<sup>IO1</sup> **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.

<sup>IO2</sup> **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.

<sup>IO3</sup> **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. <sup>IG2</sup> Vocational Goal: Collaborative Leadership**

##### *OUTCOMES*

<sup>IO4</sup> **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 Philosophy Program Goals**

<sup>PhG 1</sup> Comprehensive knowledge of the history of the Western philosophical tradition;

<sup>PhG 2</sup> Detailed understanding of systematic philosophy;

<sup>PhG 3</sup> Skills for academic research;

<sup>PhG 4</sup> Focused knowledge in one specific topic of philosophical inquiry;

<sup>PhG 5</sup> Skills for advanced academic writing and publication.

### **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.

### **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