

FUNDAMENTAL MORAL THEOLOGY

Loyola School of Theology

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(The Web-Page contains the Course Syllabus, Power Point Presentations, the Research Bibliographies, some Readings, and other materials)

Course Description

This course treats Roman Catholic fundamental moral theology, focusing on both traditional, contemporary, and Cross-Cultural understandings of principal themes such as: The Nature and History, as well as a Methodological Model for Approaching Fundamental Moral Theology; The Moral Person and Moral Community; Conscience and the Fundamental Option; Moral Norms and the Natural Law; Virtue and Teleology; Evaluations of Moral Acts; Sin (personal and social), Conversion and Reconciliation; Roles of the Magisterium and Contemporary Debates. Selected issues from sexual and medical ethics will be discussed in terms of applying the fundamental themes of moral theology to case studies drawn from practical life situations, especially from a multi-cultural and/or cross-cultural perspective. The course format will include lecture, questions and discussion, as well as occasional *Power Point* and web-based presentations.

Course written assignments and exams

The **mid-term quiz** will consist primarily of short (one paragraph) identifications of pairs of key moral terms, taken from the course lectures and readings. The **final exam** will be an *individual oral exam* of c. 20 minutes duration, scheduled during the *final week of the first quarter and/or the first week of second quarter in August*. In addition students will be asked to do two **case studies**. The first case study will be handed in the middle of the course. The final case study will be due the last day of class. Each case study will be a *maximum* of four (4) typed pages, (double-spaced, 12 point font, with 1" margins), and the case study should detail the principal moral issues and principles involved, as well as an outline of a proposed pastoral response to the case treated. Examples of the case studies will be provided in class well before each exam in the form of an in-class "dry run" sample exercise prior to the mid-term.

The *preferred* method for submission of written assignments is *electronic*, either via e-mail or by diskette. Please use the following file-naming protocol for electronic submission of assignments: Your Family Name+Given Name+Assignment Name. Thus, a student named Ted Arroyo would submit his assignments in this way: First Case Study: *ArroyoTedCase1* and Second Case Study: *ArroyoTedCase2*.

COURSE READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTS

Aumack, Raymond D. "The Jesuits Are Too Liberal." *America* (24-31 May 2004): 21-22.

Bretzke, James T., S.J. *Consecrated Phrases: A Latin Dictionary of Theological Terms*. 2nd ed. Collegeville: Liturgical Press: 1998, 2003. ISBN 0-8146-5880-6 (Reference work only)

_____. *A Morally Complex World: Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press; Manila: Jesuit Communication Press, 2004.

For Study Questions for A Morally Complex World see the following URLs:
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/MoralComplexQuestions.pdf> [PDF Version]
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/MoralComplexQuestions.htm> [HTML Version]

_____. "A New Pentecost for Moral Theology: The Challenge of Inculturation of Ethics." *Josephinum* 10:2 (Summer/Fall 2003): 250-260.

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "Catholic Sexual Ethics and the Dignity of the Person: A Double Message." *Theological Studies* 50 (1989): 120-150.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. *Catechism for Filipino Catholics*. Manila, 1997. (selections).

Coleman, Gerald, S.S. "Take and Eat: Morality and Medically Assisted Feeding." *America* (3 April 2004): 16-20. Essentially the same article as "Moral Questions of Nutrition and Hydration." *Catholic San Francisco* (12 December 2003). Internet archive version found January 29, 2004 at <http://catholic-sf.org/121203.html>

Fuchs, Josef, S.J. "Good acts and good persons." *The Tablet* 247 (6 November 1993): 1444-1445.

Kelly, Kevin T. "The Changing Face of Moral Theology at the Dawn of the New Millennium." *Catholic Medical Quarterly* 10 (November 1999): 5-13.

Kopfensteiner, Thomas R. "The Theory of the Fundamental Option and Moral Action." In *Christian Ethics: An Introduction*, 123-134. Edited by Bernard Hoose. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998.

McCormick, Patrick, C.M. "Human Sinfulness: Models for a Developing Moral Theology." *Studia Moralia* 26 (1988): 61-100.

Noonan, John T., Jr. "On the Development of Doctrine." *America* 180 (3 April 1999): 6-8.

Paul VI, Pope. *Humanae vitae* (Encyclical Letter on the Regulation of Births). 25 July 1968. AAS 60 (1968): 481-503; in *Vatican Council II. More Post-Conciliar Documents*, ed. Austin Flannery, O.P., (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1982): 397-416. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html

Pontifical Commission on Population, Family and Birth. "Final Report." Found in Robert Blair Kaiser, *The Encyclical That Never Was: The Story of the Pontifical Commission on Population, Family and Birth, 1964-1966*, 1-18. London: Sheed & Ward, 1985, 1987.

Thomas Aquinas. "Summa Theologiae: Question 94. Of the Natural Law." In *Readings in Moral Theology, No. 7: Natural Law and Theology*, 101-113. Edited by Charles E. Curran and Richard A. McCormick, S.J. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1991. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/209400.htm>

Vatican II. *Selections*: Available on the Internet at:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm

Lumen gentium #25, #39-42

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

Gaudium et spes #16, #47-52.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

Dignitatis humanae #2.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651207_dignitatis-humanae_en.html

Wildes, Kevin W., S.J. "Ordinary and Extraordinary Means and the Quality of Life." *Theological Studies* 57 (1996): 500-512.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bretzke, James T., S.J. . "A Burden of Means: An Overlooked Aspect of the Terri Schiavo PVS Debate." Paper Presented to the Pacific Section of the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting. University of the Pacific, San Francisco Campus. 13 February 2004. <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/BurdenOfMeans.pdf>

_____. "Cultural Particularity and the Globalization of Ethics in the Light of Inculturation." *Pacifica* 9 (1996): 69-86.

- _____. "Ecumenical Ethics in the Historical Context of Vatican II Moral Theology." *Josephinum Journal of Theology* 6 (Summer/Fall 1999): 18-38.
- _____. "Moral Theology Out of East Asia." *Theological Studies* 61 (March 2000): 106-121.
- Bretzke, James T., S.J., and Rodman, Monika. "After The Choice: The Church's Post-Abortion Outreach to Women." *America* 181 (6 November 1999): 14-19.
- Burke, Margaret Ellen. "Social Sin and Social Grace." *The Way Supplement* 85 (January 1996): 40-54.
- Glaser, Thomas. "Conscience and Super-Ego: A Key Distinction." *Theological Studies* 32 (1971): 30-47.
- Also found in *Conscience: Theological and Psychological Perspectives*, 167-188. Edited by C. Ellis Nelson. New York: Newman Press [Paulist], 1973.
- Huang, Daniel Patrick, S.J. "Why This Waste?: Some Reflections on the 'Worthwhileness' of Theology." *Landas* 12 (2/1998): 75-84.
- Johnstone, Brian V., C.Ss.R. "From Physicalism to Personalism." *Studia Moralia* 30 (1992): 71-96.
- Quevedo, Msgr. Orlando B., O.M.I., D.D. "Formation in the Social Teaching of the Church." *Landas* 6 (1/1992): 3-17.

SYLLABUS OF WEEKLY READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Week 1** *Introduction, Methodology, and Overview of Moral Theology [June 14]*
Required Readings for Week of June 14th:
 Aumack, "The Jesuits Are Too Liberal."
 Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Chs. 1, 5.
Recommended Reading:
 Huang, "Why This Waste?: Some Reflections on the 'Worthwhileness' of Theology."
 Johnstone, "From Physicalism to Personalism."
- Week 2** *History of Moral Theology and Introduction to Basic Concepts [June 21]*
Required Readings for Week of June 21st:
Catechism for Filipino Catholics, #674-700
 Kelly, "The Changing Face of Moral Theology at the Dawn of the New Millennium."
Recommended
 Bretzke, "Cultural Particularity and the Globalization of Ethics in the Light of Inculturation."
- Week 3** *Moral Norms and Natural Law [June 28]*

Required Readings for Week of June 28th

Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 2, 6

Catechism for Filipino Catholics, #790-829

Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae* I-II, Question 94.

Sample Case Study done together in class [not a written assignment]

Week 4 *The Moral Person, Freedom, Conscience* [July 5]

Required Reading for Week of July 5th

Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 4

Catechism for Filipino Catholics, #701-728; 830-837

Fuchs, "Good acts and good persons."

Kopfensteiner, "The Theory of the Fundamental Option and Moral Action."

Vatican II: *Gaudium et spes* #16; *Dignitatis humanae* #2

Recommended Reading:

Glaser, "Conscience and Super-Ego: A Key Distinction."

Mid-term Quiz Identifications

Week 5 *Sin, Grace, Conversion, and Reconciliation* [July 12]

Required Readings for Week of July 12th

Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, **Ch. 7**

Catechism for Filipino Catholics, #760-789; 1166-1194; 1233-1246; 1770-1810

McCormick, P. "Human Sinfulness: Models for a Developing Moral Theology."

Recommended Reading:

Burke, "Social Sin and Social Grace."

Quevedo, "Formation in the Social Teaching of the Church."

First Case Study Due

Week 6 *Roles of Church Teaching and Tradition* [July 19]

Required Reading for Week of July 19th

Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, **Ch. 3**

Catechism for Filipino Catholics, 754-759; 838-842; 861; 1423-1424

Noonan, "On the Development of Doctrine."

Vatican II: *Lumen gentium* #25.

Week 7 *Sexual Ethics* [July 26]

Required Reading for Week of July 26th

Catechism for Filipino Catholics, #1061-1133; 1881-1940

Vatican II, *Gaudium et spes*, Ch. 1, #47-52

Pontifical Commission on Population, Family and Birth. "Final Report."

Paul VI, *Humanae vitae* (1968)

Cahill, "Catholic Sexual Ethics and the Dignity of the Person: A Double Message."

Recommended Reading:

Bretzke and Rodman, "After The Choice: The Church's Post-Abortion Outreach to Women."

Week 8 *Bioethics, and Review* [August 2]

Required Reading for Week of August 2nd

Bretzke, “A New Pentecost for Moral Theology: The Challenge of Inculturation of Ethics.”

Catechism for Filipino Catholics, #732, 1038-1039

Coleman, “Take and Eat: Morality and Medically Assisted Feeding.”

Wildes, “Ordinary and Extraordinary Means and the Quality of Life.”

Recommended Reading:

Bretzke, . “A Burden of Means”

****NB 2 Final Exam Case Studies Due on August 9th**

Week 9 *Final Comprehensive Individual Oral Examination* [August 9-13]