

Rev. James T. Bretzke, S.J., S.T.D.
Professor and Chair: Department of Theology & Religious Studies
University of San Francisco: Spring 2007

Class: Fridays: 9:40 AM to 1:20 PM

E-mail: bretzkesj@usfca.edu

Office Hours: Fridays 3:45-4:30 PM **OR** by appointment

Office phone: (415) 422-5298

Classroom: LM 352

Room phone: 415-422-6260

Course Web-page: <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/USFWebIndex.htm>

Course Description

This one-semester course (which fulfills the Core D-3 ethics requirement) is designed as an introduction to the Roman Catholic tradition of fundamental moral theology. The principal themes to be treated include: The Nature of, and a Methodological Model for Approaching Fundamental Moral Theology; An Historical Overview of Casuistry and Pre-Vatican II Moral Theology; The Moral Person and Moral Community; The Christian Vocation: Call and Response; Conscience and the Fundamental Option; Moral Norms and the Natural Law; Virtue and Teleology; Evaluations of Moral Acts; Sin, Conversion and Reconciliation; Roles of the Magisterium; Current Developments in Moral Theology, and Prospects for the Future. Selected issues in special ethics, especially from areas of sexual and biomedical ethics will be used to show how the Church applies the fundamental themes of moral theology to practical life situations. Students will also read C.S. Lewis' novel, *The Great Divorce* and do a reflection paper on it in light of the Catholic moral tradition on sin, grace, reconciliation, and salvation. The course format will be lecture and discussion, Power Point presentations, and questions based on both lecture input and the course readings. A Course Web-Page (on *Blackboard*) will be employed and each student will be asked to keep abreast of the Web-Page on a weekly basis and to post short questions and responses as indicated below.

Course written assignments and exams

Given the topical nature of this course students should be keeping abreast of current events and related discussion through the news media (such as newspapers like the *New York Times* [available online at <http://www.nytimes.com> and news broadcasts such as NPR and/or the Lehrer Report (available on KQED radio and TV, Channel 9). In addition, one reading per week will be assigned from *Commonweal* and should be commented upon in some way in the weekly online journal entry (see below). Also since this course will utilize the Blackboard web-page rather extensively the students should count on logging onto the page and checking their e-mail several times weekly (daily if possible, and minimally before each class session). The students are responsible for maintaining an active, viable e-mail account, and keeping their e-mail address current on Blackboard. Beginning the third week of the course students will be divided into two groups (A and B) and asked either to **post a question on one of the designated readings to the Course Web-Page**, or to reply to one of the questions posted (posting and replying alternating weekly). An asterisk in the Weekly Themes syllabus section indicate which readings may be chosen for the web questions. Students are also invited to post questions, comments, and/or replies regarding the readings even if their group is not assigned to do so on a given week and each student is responsible for reading the course postings on a weekly basis.

Also beginning the third week of the course each student will be asked to keep a **confidential weekly electronic journal** on the course which would include reflections upon the themes of the class lectures and discussion, the course readings, and/or any other items relevant to the course. This journal will be submitted electronically either via *Blackboard* or by e-mail to the professor no later than 9 PM on Wednesday San Francisco time. The journal entries themselves will not be graded and the length of the weekly entries typically would be somewhere between a few paragraphs to a couple of pages. Only the professor will read the students' journals, though if students wish to post reflections on the Discussion Board of *Blackboard* they are free to do so.

A **mid-term exam** will be a combination of identification of moral terminology terms and a short essay question based on the course lectures, readings, and discussion. The exam terms will be drawn from a "Glossary" made available to the students online at the beginning of the course. The **final comprehensive exam** will be an individual oral exam of approximately 20 minutes, and will be comprehensive of the entire semester. *N.B. At least one of the recommended readings (chosen by the student) will be added to the material for the final exam.*

Written work, in addition to the weekly course web-page discussion postings and journal entries will consist of a **5-page reflection paper/book report on C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce***, plus **2 case studies**, one due in the middle of the term, and an additional final case study due on the final class day. 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, and further discussion of the format for the book report will be given in the course.

Course Grading

Three principal factors will be taken into consideration for the final grade for the course: 1) careful preparation of the assigned readings, attendance, and active participation in each of the class meetings and the web-page discussion board and journal entries, C.S. Lewis paper (45%); 2) the case study and mid-term (25%); and 3) the final case study and the oral final exam (30%). *N.B.* Any student who misses 20% or more of classes will risk failing the course. Since the course meets just once a week for a total of thirteen class sessions, 20% would translate into 2.6 absences. In the event of an absence from class the student is requested to extend the professional courtesy of informing the professor of the absence (before-hand if foreseen, after the fact if unforeseen).

Course Etiquette and Practicalia

Please arrive on time and with your cell-phone, PDA, etc. *turned off*. We will normally take a short break towards the middle of the class session, so please try to use that for restroom visits (of course in an emergency please feel free to leave as needed). We will follow the "library" rules on food and drink allowed/not-allowed in the classroom. As Dean Turpin has reiterated, "attendance at class is an expectation and students are not to be awarded merely for class attendance." If an absence from class is foreseen please e-mail me in advance of the planned absence. If the absence was unforeseen (i.e., no advance notice was given), then please e-mail me as soon as is convenient after the missed class in order to check in. The student is

responsible for getting any notes, handouts, etc., from a missed class. This can be done through a friend, or in the case of handouts, directly from the professor. It is the student, though, who should take the initiative to make sure s/he is up to date on anything that may have been missed in class. If you are having difficulty in following any part of the class lecture, discussion, readings, etc., please either raise the issue in class, or privately with the professor via e-mail, in the office, or after class.

COURSE READINGS: *REQUIRED texts to be read by all* [USF Bookstore Edoption Order placed on October 9, 2006 with Order # 843906]

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

The Bible (selections). The *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV) is recommended, but other translations, such as the *New American Bible* [ISBN 0195283899] may also be used (several of these are available on the Internet: <http://ntgateway.com/multibib/bible.htm>).

Bretzke, James T., S.J. *Consecrated Phrases: A Latin Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press: 1998, 2003. ISBN 0-8146-5880-6 (**Reference work, NOT to be read in its entirety**).

Bretzke, James T., S.J. *A Morally Complex World: Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004. ISBN 0-8146-5158-5

_____. "The Pope Has a Feeding Tube; Why Can't Terri?: Interpreting Recent Catholic Magisterial Teaching on End-of-Life Issues. *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (forthcoming) <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/InterpretingMagisterialEndOfLifeTeachings.pdf>

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.

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "On Being A Catholic Feminist." *Santa Clara Lectures* 27 April 2003. <http://www.scu.edu/bannancenter/eventsandconferences/lectures/archives/cahill.cfm> [HTML]
<http://www.scu.edu/bannancenter/eventsandconferences/lectures/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=6449> [PDF]

Catechism of the Catholic Church. See especially "Part Three: Life in Christ." Garden City: Doubleday Image, 1995. ISBN 0-385-47967-0. OR available on the Internet at: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

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>

Commonweal (Weekly magazine: one article per week for 10 weeks will be assigned for class reading).

Conley, Dalton. "A Man's Right to Choose." *The New York Times* (1 December 1, 2005)

Foster, Serrin. "The Feminist Case Against Abortion." *The Commonwealth* (September 1999): 5-6.

John Paul II, Pope. *Evangelium vitae*. Encyclical Letter on the Gospel of Life. [*Selections*] http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html

Lewis, C.S. *The Great Divorce*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1946, 1973. ISBN 0-06-065295-0.

Mathewes-Green, Frederica. "Perspective." *The Plough* (Spring 1998): 28-34

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: Conciliar and Post-Conciliar Documents*, ed. Austin Flannery, O.P., (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1982): 397-416 [ISBN 0918344395]. 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. Also published as *The Politics Of Sex And Religion : A Case History In The Development Of Doctrine, 1962-198*. Kansas City: Leaven Press, 1985. [ISBN 0934134162 {Out of print}]

Ross, Susan. "Can God Be a Bride? Some Problems with an Ancient Metaphor." *America* (1 November 2004): 12-15.

Vatican II. *Selections from Vatican Council II: Conciliar and Post-Conciliar Documents*, ed. Austin Flannery, O.P., (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1982) [ISBN 0918344395] or online 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

RECOMMENDED READINGS (for further background and/or development of course themes, though at least ONE of these must be chosen for the final oral exam)

Bretzke, James T., S.J. "A Burden of Means: An Overlooked Aspect of the PVS Debate." *Landas* 18/2 (2004): 211-230. <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/InterpretingMagisterialEndOfLifeTeachings.pdf>

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. "Letter To The Bishops Of The Catholic Church On The Collaboration Of Men And Women In The Church And In The World." 31 May 2004 [released 31 July 2004]
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20040731_collaboration_en.html

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.

John Paul II, Pope. *Veritatis splendor*. Encyclical Letter on the Fundamental Moral Theology. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_06081993_veritatis-splendor_en.html

Johnstone, Brian V., C.Ss.R. "From Physicalism to Personalism." *Studia Moralia* 30 (1992): 71-96.

Keenan, James, S.J. "The Distinction Between Goodness and Rightness." Chapter One in Idem, *Goodness and Rightness in Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologiae*, 3-20. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1992.

Kopfensteiner, Thomas R. "Protecting a Dignified Death: A Contemporary Challenge for Moral Reasoning." *New Theology Review* 6 (November 1993): 6-27.

Mahoney, John, S.J. *The Making of Moral Theology: A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition*. The Martin D'Arcy Memorial Lectures, 1981-2. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987. (347 pages). [ISBN 0-19-826730-4]

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

O'Collins, Gerald, S.J., and Farrugia, Edward, S.J. *A Concise Dictionary of Theology*. Revised and expanded edition. New York: Paulist Press, 1991, 2000. [ISBN 0-8091-3929-4]
[Reference work to be consulted as needed by the student]

Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae I-II*: "Question 94. Of the Natural Law."
<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/209400.htm>

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

SYLLABUS OF COURSE THEMES & READINGS

****NB** There is obviously a certain progression as well as overlap and interrelation among these various themes. In general, we will move from a grounding in theory, concepts, and tradition, to a consideration of contemporary church teachings, theological opinions and application to concrete moral issues. Refer to the *Course Readings* for complete page numbers and bibliographical information on these assigned readings. Readings listed for each week should be completed **by class-time** of each week.

Week 1 *Introduction, Methodology, and Overview of Moral Theology* [Jan. 26]

Aumack, "The Jesuits Are Too Liberal."
Bible: Matthew 19: 16-30

Week 2 *History of Moral Theology and Introduction to Basic Concepts* [Feb. 2]

Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 1: "Through Thick and Thin: Mapping a Moral Methodology"

Recommended Johnstone, "From Physicalism to Personalism"; Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*, Chs. 1-2.

Week 3 *Moral Norms and Natural Law* [Feb. 9]

Web-Page Question/Replies begin: Each person in Group A posts a one question to one of the assigned readings designated by an asterisk [*]; Each person in Group B posts a reply to one of the questions posted by Group A. Post the Questions by Wednesday at 9 PM and the Replies by Thursday at 9 PM.

Bible Romans 2:12-16

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

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 3, Art. 1

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

Week 4 ***Moral Good and Evil; Rightness and Wrongness of Actions Part 1*** [Feb. 16]

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group B posts a question each; Group A posts a reply each to one of the questions posted by Group B. Post the Questions by Wednesday at 9 PM and the Replies by Thursday at 9 PM.

**Bible: Matthew 25*

**Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Art. 4-5

Recommended Keenan, "The Distinction Between Goodness and Rightness"; Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*, Ch. 3

Week 5 ***Moral Good and Evil; Rightness and Wrongness of Actions Part 2; Scripture and Ethics*** [Feb. 23]

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group A posts a question; Group B posts a reply.

**Bible* (the collected short passages that purportedly deal with "homosexuality" listed in the *Blackboard* online exercise to be done in advance of class this week)

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

Week 6 ***The Moral Person, Freedom, Conscience, and Community*** [March 2]

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group B posts a question and Group A posts a reply.

*Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 4

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

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Articles 1-3, Article 6, Ch. 2, Articles 1-3,

Recommended Glaser, "Conscience and Super-Ego: A Key Distinction"; *Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*, Ch. 5.

Week 7 ***Mid-Term Exam and "A Man For All Seasons"*** [March 9]

****NB Mid-Term Case Study Due on March 11th (if sent electronically) OR on March 9th at class-time if submitted only by hard-copy.**

****75 minute MID-TERM EXAM HELD ON MARCH 9th based on Material from Weeks 1-6). "A Man For All Seasons" will be shown for the remaining time of the week.**

NO WEB-PAGE Questions or Answers Required (optional if you wish)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Art. 7

N.B. NO CLASS ON MARCH 16th DUE TO USF SPRING BREAK

Week 8 ***Sin, Grace, Conversion, and Reconciliation [March 23]***

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group A posts a question; Group B posts a reply.

* *Bible: Leviticus Chapter 16; Luke Chapters 4 & 15*

*Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Chs. 6-7

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Art.

8, Ch. 3, Art. 2; Section Two, Ch. 2, Articles 1-4; 7-8, 10

Vatican II, *Lumen gentium* #39-42

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

Week 9 ***Roles of Church Teaching and Tradition [March 30]***

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group B posts a question and Group A posts a reply.

**Bible: Matthew 16: 13-21; John 14*

*Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "On Being A Catholic Feminist." *Santa Clara Lectures*

*Vatican II: *Lumen gentium* #25.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 3, Art. 3

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

Recommended: *Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*, Chs. 4, 6

Week 10 **[April 6] No Class Due to Good Friday Holiday**

Week 11 ***Sexual Ethics I*[April 13]**

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group A posts a question and Group B posts a reply.

Bible: 1 Corinthians 13

**Bible: Song of Songs Chapters 1-8*

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

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

*Paul VI, *Humanae vitae* (1968)

*Ross, Susan. "Can God Be a Bride?"

Recommended:

*Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*, Ch. 7.

*CDF, "The Collaboration Of Men And Women In The Church And In The World"

Week 12 *Sexual Ethics II & Social Ethics* [April 20]

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group B posts a question; Group A posts a reply.

Bible: Luke Chapter 6

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

*Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 5

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section Two, Ch. 2, Articles 6, 9

* Conley, Dalton. "A Man's Right to Choose."

*Foster, "The Feminist Case Against Abortion."

*Mathewes-Green, "Perspective."

*Lewis, *The Great Divorce* [whole book]

Reflection Paper on C.S. Lewis' The Great Divorce Due Class-time April 20th if submitted by hard-copy or by April 23rd if submitted electronically

Week 13 *Bioethics 1* [April 27]

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group A posts a question and Group B posts a reply.

Bretzke, "The Pope Has a Feeding Tube; Why Can't Terri?"

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part 3: Life in Christ" Section 2, Ch. 2, Art. 5

John Paul II, Pope. *Evangelium vitae*, #2; 13-17; 64-68

Coleman, Gerald, S.S. "Take and Eat: Morality and Medically Assisted Feeding."

Recommended:

Kopfensteiner, "Protecting a Dignified Death"

Wildes, "Ordinary and Extraordinary Means and the Quality of Life."

Week 14 *Bioethics 2* [May 4 Last Class]

Web-Page Question/Replies: Group B posts a question; Group A posts a reply.

John Paul II, Pope. *Evangelium vitae*, 73-74; 89-91; 99

Recommended

Bretzke, "A Burden of Means: An Overlooked Aspect of the PVS Debate."

John Paul II, Pope. *Veritatis splendor*;

Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*, Ch. 8

Week 15 [May 11th] Final Case Study Due

Final Comprehensive Individual Oral Examination given on between these dates: [May 10-17]