

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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**TITLE:** Fundamental Christian Ethics II

**TERM:** January – April 2019 [20191]

**SCHEDULE:** **SAS timetable available on SAS Website: [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca) for day, time and room location.**

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Patricia Murphy

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to moral agency and decision-making as understood by the Catholic moral tradition in light of a new evangelization. As in Christian Ethics I, *Veritatis Splendor (VS)* provides the foundations and guides consideration of such topics as: freedom and responsibility, conscience, the sources of morality and elements of moral decision making, principles of double effect and cooperation, virtue, vice and etc. Readings, lectures, discussions, short paper, journal work and final written exam.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- Articulate a *positive* vision for contemporary Catholic moral teaching – one that responds to the question “*why* be moral?” and to the desires of the human heart for truth and goodness<sup>1</sup>
- Explain what is *distinctive* about Christian ethics (the connections among Christian faith, the spiritual life and the moral life)
- Identify key features of a Christian anthropology and demonstrate understanding of the nature of moral agency (freedom and responsibility)
- Explain the relationship between freedom and law and the meanings of “autonomy,” “heteronomy” and “participated theonomy” according to *VS*
- Explain the teaching of *VS* on conscience (how it functions, vincible and invincible ignorance, formation, etc.,) and distinguish it from erroneous views of conscience
- Explain the teaching of *VS* on the sources of morality (with special attention to the object of the moral act and moral absolutes)
- Compare and critically evaluate different methods of moral reasoning, (e.g. proportionalist or revisionist and those consistent with *VS*)
- Explain the principles of double effect and cooperation and apply them to cases

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<sup>1</sup> \*\*Course outcomes are designed to assist students in meeting various program outcomes, especially MDIV outcomes in the areas of: “**cultural context,**” “**personal-spiritual growth,**” “**religious heritage,**” and “**capacity for ministerial and public leadership**”

- *Analyze contemporary ethical questions* according to the principles of Catholic of moral reasoning
- Discuss the role of virtues (acquired and infused) in the moral life today
- Discuss the main elements of the teaching on sin in the Catholic moral tradition
- Discuss the pastoral significance of the above

**PREREQUISITES:**

Fundamental Christian Ethics I

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Encyclical Letter of John Paul II. *The Splendor of Truth*. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 1993.

Colom, Enrique and Angel Rodriguez Luno. *Chosen in Christ to be Saints. Vol, 1: Fundamental Moral Theology*. Translated by Thomas Daniel Howes and Gerald Malsbary. Rome: Eidzioni Santa Croce, 2014. (Available on Amazon).

A **course reader and handouts** available from instructor, at cost

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

participation, short analysis paper, journal work, final written exam

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

\_\_\_\_\_. *Living the Truth in Love. A Biblical Introduction to Moral Theology*. New York: Alba House, 2000. (great resource on use of Scripture in moral theology)

Barron, Robert. *The Priority of Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2007.

Billy, Dennis J. and James Keating. *Conscience and Prayer. The Spirit of Catholic Moral Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Bohr, David. *Catholic Moral Tradition. Revised*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2006. (a good complement to Pinckaers' Sources; more historical than systematic)

Caffara, Carlo. *Living in Christ. Fundamental Principles of Catholic Moral Teaching*. Translated by Christopher Ruff. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1987. (more meditative than systematic. . . )

Cessario, Romanus. *Introduction to Moral Theology*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Moral Virtues and Theological Ethics*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Virtues, or the Examined Life*. New York: Continuum Press, 2002.

Curran, Charles and Richard McCormick, eds. *Readings in Moral Theology, No. 8*. Mahweh: Paulist Press, 1993.

DiNoia, J.A. and Romanus Cessario. Eds. *Veritatis Splendor and the Renewal of Moral Theology*. Princeton, NJ: Scepter Publishers, 1999.

Fernandez, Aurelio and James Socias. *Our Moral Life in Christ*. Princeton, NJ: Scepter Press, 2005. (very accessible, organized around the Catechism.)

Grisez, Germain. *The Way of the Lord Jesus. Vol 1: Christian Moral Principles*. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1983.

Harak, G. Simon. *Virtuous Passions: The Formation of Christian Character*. Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1993.

Kaczor, Christopher, ed. *Proportionalism: For and Against*. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2000. (see especially the contributions by Fuchs and Grisez)

Matera, Frank. *New Testament Ethics*. Westminster: John Knox, 1996.

Mattison, William. *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.

May, William. *An Introduction to Moral Theology*. Second Edition. Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. ed. *Principles of Catholic Moral Life*. Chicago: Franciscan Press, 1979. (now out of print; a collection of papers from a conference, this volume provides a good introduction to key areas of moral theology: organized around themes of sin, conscience, natural law, the distinctiveness of Christian ethics.)

McCormick, Richard. *Notes on Moral Theology: 1965-1980*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1981.

McInerney, Ralph. *Ethica Thomistica*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1982.

Melina, Livio. *Sharing in Christ's Virtues: For a Renewal of Moral Theology in Light of Veritatis Splendor*. Translated by William May. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2001.

Odozor, Paulinus. *Richard McCormick and the Renewal of Moral Theology*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995.

Pieper, Josef. *The Cardinal Virtues*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1965.

Pinckaers, Servais. *Morality: The Catholic View*. South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Pursuit of Happiness, God's Way: Living the Beatitudes*. New York: Alba House, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Pinckaers Reader: Renewing Thomistic Moral Theology*. Edited by John Berkman and Craig Titus. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2005.

Rhonheimer, Martin. *The Perspective of the Acting Person: Essays in the Renewal of Thomistic Moral Philosophy*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Ethics of Procreation and the Defense of Human Life*. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Vital Conflicts in Medical Ethics: A Virtue Approach to Craniotomy and Tubal Pregnancies*. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2009.