



REL 460 Moral Values in Religious Education

Winter 2022-2022

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date:

Sept. 14-Dec. 7, 2022

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room:

This course will meet on **Wednesdays Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 23, and Dec. 7, 2022, from 8:30-11:20 a.m. and 1:15-4:05 p.m. in the St. Francis Room.**

Instructor:	Sr. Zoe Bernatsky SSMI
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Course Description

The basic elements of moral theology since Vatican II. Biblical and theological themes that define the person in Christ. The Christian meaning of sin, virtue, conscience, law, and moral discernment. The Christian experience of conversion and reconciliation in the way of discipleship.

Course Objectives

This core course will introduce the participants to the field of moral theology, particularly as practiced within the Catholic Church. The sources of Catholic moral theology will be explored in some depth: Scripture, Tradition, Magisterial Teaching, Reason, and Human Experience. The goal of the course will be to explore the meaning of moral decision-making and behavior, in particular as disciples of Christ. Moral theory will be applied to numerous contemporary topics of importance to the Catholic community and society.

MRE Program Goals

- a) **Theological Instruction** - The program shall offer students instruction in the major areas of Catholic theology.
- b) **Religious Education Instruction** - The program shall offer instruction in the discipline of Religious education.
- c) **Cultural Context** - The program shall foster a capacity to discern and engage the cultural context as it impacts Catholic education.
- d) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall offer students opportunities to grow in their spiritual life and their vocation as Catholic educators and witnesses to the Gospel.
- e) **Integrating Theory and Praxis** - The program shall offer integration of theological knowledge and religious education formation in the professional work of Catholic education.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to demonstrate the following competencies.

MRE Goal: Theological Instruction - The course shall offer students instruction in the major areas of moral theology in the Catholic tradition.

- 1.1. Understand basic terms and concepts related to the field of moral theology including human anthropology, sin, virtue, conscience, and moral discernment.
- 1.2. Understand the congruence of a life of virtue with the moral life. Appreciate how a virtue ethics approach integrates rules and norms without reducing the entire moral life to rules.
- 1.3. Become conversant with principles that guide the Catholic approach to bioethics, sexual ethics, and specific social issues.
- 1.4. Understand how a virtue ethics approach can inform everyday questions.
- 1. MRE Goal: Cultural Context** - The program shall foster a capacity to discern and engage the cultural context as it impacts moral decision-making and Catholic education.
 - 1.1. Understand the historical development of moral theology and the role of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience historically and in the present day.
 - 1.2. Articulate challenges related to becoming and forming Christian disciples who can make ethical decisions based on an integrated life of faith. Identify interventions to address these current challenges.

2. **MRE Goal Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall offer students opportunities to grow in their spiritual life and their vocation as Catholic educators and witnesses to the Gospel.
 - 2.1. Understand the role of spirituality and Christian discipleship in ethical formation and apply this personally and professionally
 - 2.2. Integrate moral theology in a way that supports your human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. **Assignment #1 (10% of final grade).** Pope Francis Interview. Ministry in the Church (1000 words). **Due Sept. 26.**
2. **Complete two of the following three essay options, each worth 25% of the final Grade.**
 - i) **Assignment #2** (25% of final grade) Virtues Ethics Essay (1500 words).
Part 1: Discuss the strengths and limitations of Virtue Ethics as a compelling ethical framework for moral living. Part II: Describe the virtues that must be engaged when confronted with ethical issues at the end-of-life or related to sexual ethics. Use the cardinal and theological issues, but also explore additional contemporary virtues. Use 3-5 sources in addition to the text. **Due October 17.**
 - ii) **Assignment #3** (25% of final grade) Spirituality and Moral Theology Reflection paper (1500 words). **Due Nov. 14.** The assignment will be discussed in class Oct. 19th. Please see Ed Kinerk Personal Encounters with Jesus Christ in *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 48/3 Autumn 2016, 1-29.
<https://jesuitonlinelibrary.bc.edu/?a=d&d=sis20160901-01&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN-kinerk----->
 - iii) **Assignment #4** (25% of final grade) Social Ethics Paper (1500 words): In essay format explore a social issue of importance today. Use 6-10 sources in addition to the text. **Due Dec. 1.**
3. **Final Exam:** (Oral exam): 40% of final the grade. **Dec. 7th** (alternate dates will be arranged according to the need).

GRADING ON WRITTEN WORK

The “A” range: These grades reflect superior work which is well above the average level of competency in writing. Work at this level reflects an ability to critically engage the material being discussed. This would include an ability to analyze texts and ideas in a way that interests and excites the reader and that assists the reader in viewing the issue in a new light. The work will be coherent and have a well-formulated argument or thesis which the reader will easily be able to grasp. This includes a logical progression of ideas between and within paragraphs giving the paper a sense of wholeness. Writing at this level will be fluid, clear, precise, and grammatically correct. It will not only make sense, the reader should find it compelling.

The “B” range: These grades reflect work that is above average. It will be obvious to the reader that thought has been given to the topic. In general summary and narrative have been avoided in favor of critical analysis. The writing contains a clearly stated thesis or argument which provides the shape of the work. In general, all parts of the paper support and strengthen the thesis. Ideas will be adequately developed and an effort to be clear and coherent will be apparent. On the whole the work will flow well and contain few, if any, grammatical errors.

The “C” range: Work at this level indicates competence, but also exhibits problems. Sufficient thought may not have been given to the topic. There might be too heavy a reliance on summary or narrative rather than argument and critical analysis. The thesis may be uninteresting and not excite or engage the reader or the thesis may not be sufficiently developed. The work may lack unity with little logical progression or connection of thoughts between and within paragraphs. The relation of all parts of the work to the central argument or thesis may be unclear, and the style of writing may be too colloquial or obscure, thus, making it difficult for the reader to understand and follow your position. The lack of clarity or coherence may be directly related to poor grammar and weak writing skills.

Textbooks

Course Texts – Required Reading

1. Mattison, William C., *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press), 2008.
2. Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today’s World* (Rv. Ed) (Winona, MN: Anselm Academic), 2011.

Additional References:

David Bohr, *Catholic Moral Tradition* (CMT)(Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers), 2006.
Other reading to be accessed online.

Available online:

Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis splendor* (The Splendor of Truth). Pope

Francis, *Laudato si* (On Care For Our Common Home)

Pope Francis, *Amoris laetitia* (The Joy of Love)

Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium* (Apostolic Exhortation on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World)

Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exsultate* (Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today's World)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance: Please notify Professor by email if you will be unable to attend the remote classes.
2. Pre-class reading is required in order to contribute to class discussion. Come prepared for respectful discussion. Treat all material from classroom discussion as confidential.
3. Pedagogical Commitments
 - a. All assignments will require evidence of Course Objectives #1, 2, and #.
 - b. Final Exam is directed at all the Objectives, but largely Objectives # 1 and 2.

Late Submission Policy.

In the case of severe illness or personal or family emergency please contact professor to request an extension. If no extension given, late assignments will be penalized by 5% per assignment.

Course Schedule

Class #1 September 14:

1. Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World*, Chapter 1-2
2. William Mattison, *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*, Chapter 1-2
3. Interview with Pope Francis (See link or Moodle)
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2013/09/30/big-heart-opengod-interview-pope-francis> (or see Moodle)

Class:

1. Introductions
2. Review of Syllabus, Best/Worse learning experiences
3. Introduction: Moral Theology and its relationship to other disciplines

- a. Foundations of Christian Morality Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World Ch. 1* What is moral theology? On what is it based?
 - b. Moral Theology and Spirituality
 - c. Biblical Foundations
4. Morality, Happiness and the Good life (Mattison, Chapter 1)
 5. Intentions (Mattison, Chapter 2)
 6. Conscience (Catholic Ethics in Today's World Chapter 2)
 7. Pope Francis: Interview

Assignment #1 Due September 26th worth 10% of grade.

In 1000 words or less, answer the following questions: Why does Pope Francis offer the analogy of the Church as a field hospital? What is the purpose of ministry in the Gospel? What is the purpose of morality? How does Pope Francis shift, challenge, or deepen your understanding of morality in the life of the Church?

Class #2 Sept. 28

Read:

1. William Mattison, *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*, Chapter 3-9
2. Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World*, Chapter 7

Theme: Virtues

- a) Why Virtue (Mattison, Chapter 3)
- b) Virtues: Temperance, Prudence, Case: Alcohol (Mattison, Chapter 4-6)
- c) Justice (Mattison, Chapter 7-8), Zalot and Guevin, Chapter 7
- d) Fortitude (Mattison, Chapter 9-10)

Assignment #2 Virtue Ethics Paper (Option one of three, two assignments out of three are required) . Due Oct. 17.

Class #3 October 19

- i) William Mattison, *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*, Chapter 11-17.

- ii) Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World*, Chapter 10.
- iii) Ed Kinerk "Personal Encounters With Jesus Christ ," *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 48/3 Autumn 2016, 1-29.
<https://jesuitonlinelibrary.bc.edu/?a=d&d=sis20160901-01&e=-----en20--1--txt-txIN----->

Class:

- 1. Faith: Mattison Chapter 11
- 2. Sin Mattison Chapter 12
- 3. Hope Mattison Chapter 13
- 4. Jesus Christ:
 - a) Mattison Chapter 14
 - b) Kinerk: Encounters with Jesus
- 5. Charity: Mattison Chapter 15
- 6. Grace: Mattison Chapter 16

Option two out of three, two papers out of the three must be completed. Spirituality and Moral Theology Reflection paper. Due Nov. 14 worth 25% of your grade. Incorporate the suggestions of the author into your own daily practice and write a reflection paper on your experience (maximum 1500 words) Ed Kinerk, "Personal Encounters With Jesus Christ" in *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits* 48/3 Autumn 2016, 1-29.

<https://jesuitonlinelibrary.bc.edu/?a=d&d=sis20160901-01&e=-----en-20-1--txt-txIN----->

Class #4 Nov. 2

Reading:

- i) Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World*, Chapter 3-6.
- ii) Death Penalty
- iii) Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- iv) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
<http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MMIWG-Executive-Summary-ENG.pdf>
- v) Across the Desert and the Sea (audio recording)
<https://revealnews.org/podcast/across-the-desert-and-the-sea/>

- v) *Amoris laetitia*: The Joy of Love
- vi) Additional Material as circulated.

1. Introduction to Social Teaching of the Church (Zalot and Guevin, Chapter 3)
2. Examination of various social issues including business ethics, global ethics, local and international issues: (Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World* Chapters 4-5)

Option three out of three, two papers out to the three must be completed worth 25% of final grade and due Dec. 1. Submit a 1500 word essay on an ethical social issue that interests you. You must use at 6-10 references in addition to the texts.

Class #5 Nov. 23

Reading:

- i) William Mattison, *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*, Chapter 17-18.
- ii) Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World*, Chapter 9-10.
- iii) Additional material will be posted on Moodle Class:

1. Sexual Ethics (Zalot and Guevin, Chapter 10)
2. Chastity and Nonmarital Sex (Mattison, Chapter 17)
3. *Amoris Laetitia*: The Joy of Love
3. Bioethics
 - a) Consistent Ethics of Life
 - b) Euthanasia (Mattison, Chapter 18, Zalot and Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World* Chapter 9.

Course Review

Class #6 Dec. 7th

Reading:

- i) Zalot, Jozef and Benedict Guevin, *Catholic Ethics in Today's World*, Chapter 8
- ii) Review Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation: *The Call to Holiness in Today's World*: How does Pope Francis define holiness? What are its enemies? Considering what you have learned in this class, how do you define holiness? Give examples.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/pa-pa-francesco-esortazione-ap-20180319-gaudete-et-exsultate.html

Oral exams will take place on Dec. 7th. Please notify professor if unable to be present on that day. Oral Exam is comprehensive and worth 40% of final grade.

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies			Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point

Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

2. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
3. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
4. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting the Dean of Students, Lorraine Spenrath at 780-392-2450; email lorraine.spenrath@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)