

MPS 229I- Married Love and Sexuality in the Eastern Christian Tradition

Winter Semester 2020-2021

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

January 15, 2021 - March 13, 2021

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

January 15, 1:15-4:05 PM, 6:00- 8:50 PM, January 16, 8:30-11:20 AM
February 5, 1:15-4:05 PM, 6:00- 8:50 PM, February 6, 8:30-11:20 AM
February 26, 1:15-4:05 PM, 6:00- 8:50 PM, February 27, 8:30-11:20 AM
March 12, 1:15-4:05 PM, 6:00- 8:50 PM, March 13, 8:30-11:20 AM
Holy Spirit Seminary, 12909 113 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T5M 2W8

For students participating in this class synchronously, all classes will be accessible at the above times through a ZOOM link to be provided.

Instructors Name: Fr. Michael Bombak

Office: Holy Spirit Seminary, 11 AM- 1 PM on the Fridays of classes.

Office Hours: 11 AM- 1 PM on the Fridays of classes, or videoconference by appointment.

Telephone: 825-735-3099

Email: Michael.Bombak@Newman.edu

Course Description

The human dimensions of love and sexuality. The religious meaning of human sexuality in the Judeo-Christian tradition, with special reference to Christian marriage in the Eastern Christian Tradition. Issues raised by the contemporary sexual revolution. Doctrinal, liturgical, moral, pastoral, sacramental and spiritual dimensions of Christian marriage.

Course Objectives

Formulated to address one or more of the four goals of theological education at NTC as articulated in the context and scope section of the catalogue.

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - *The course aims to deepen the students' understanding of the anthropological, Scriptural and theological foundations of an authentic vision of human sexuality and marriage in the Catholic Tradition especially through greater familiarity with the Eastern Christian Tradition. It is also intended to fully connect this vision to fully Catholic ethical vision of human sexuality.*
- b) **Cultural Context** - *In conjunction with, and in application of, their intellectual formation, the course aims to help students engage critically the contemporary challenges and criticisms to a Catholic understanding of human sexuality and marriage by bringing the light of the Gospel to bear on the contemporary problematic. The course will also help students to better identify solutions referencing the genuine meaning and authentic goods of human sexuality and marriage.*
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - *By deepening an holistic understanding of the nature and significance of human sexuality and marriage this course seeks to develop in students a greater*

familiarity and comfort with the complex issues related to human sexuality and a better foundation upon which to approach and consider aspects of human sexuality and marriage.

- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - *By exposing students to a breadth of Ecclesial teaching on sexuality and marriage, the course will provide students both a greater resourcefulness and preparedness to comfortably engage and respond to the contemporary situation with greater confidence and clarity.*

Course Assignments and Evaluation

MPS 229 Ei Assignments and Evaluation

1. Assignment #1: Paper on Jean-Claude Larchet's *Theology of the Body*, between 5-6 pages in length, due February 26, 2021.
2. Assignment #2: Book Review, 5-6 pages in length, due March 13, 2021. The book review must be based on the class textbook, John S. Grabowski. *Sex and Virtue: An Introduction to Sexual Ethics*.

These assignments are to be submitted by emailing them to the instructor by midnight on the due dates indicated below.

Textbooks/Required Reading

1. Larchet, Jean-Claude, *Theology of the Body*. New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2017.
2. Grabowski, John S. *Sex and Virtue: An Introduction to Sexual Ethics*. Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 2003.
3. Hunter, David G., ed. *Ad Fontes: Early Christian Sources*. Vol. Marriage and Sexuality in Early Christianity. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018.
4. Various supplemental readings to be provided.

Recommended Reading

1. Chrysostom, John. *On Marriage and Family Life*. Translated by Catherine, P Roth, & David Anderson. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1986.
2. Trenham, Josiah. *Marriage and Virginty According to St. John Chrysostom*. USA: St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, 2013.
3. Farley, Lawrence R. *One Flesh: Salvation Through Marriage in the Orthodox Church*. Chesterton, IN: Ancient Faith Publishing, 2017.

4. Bombak, Michael. "Two Theologies of the Body': A Comparative Analysis of the Anthropologies of Pope St. John Paul II and Representative Eastern Theologians as They Relate to the Use of Artificial Contraception within Christian Marriage." Edmonton: Newman Theological College. Masters Thesis, 2020.

Course Requirements

Student grades will be determined from four elements:

1. Assignment #1: Theology of the Body Paper (weighted at 30%)
 2. Assignment #2: Book Report (weighted at 30%)
 3. Participation in class discussions - 10%
 4. Final Oral Exam (weighted at 30%)
1. **The Theology of the Body paper** will help the students' gain a familiarity with the patristic conception of the human body, assisting them in the apprehension of the natural, anthropological and Scriptural foundations for human sexuality and marriage within the Eastern Catholic Tradition.
 2. **The Book Report** will assist students in applying/linking the anthropological foundations with ethical considerations within the "Virtue Ethics" tradition.
 3. **In class discussions** will develop an increased willingness to engage the important and complex topics around human sexuality and marriage as well as to develop an ability to articulate clearly Christian perspectives when in conversation with others. *For online students, participation in the lectures and class discussion will be made available through ZOOM.*
 4. **The final exam** is meant to allow the student to demonstrate their knowledge of foundation principles and concepts related to human sexuality and marriage in the Eastern Catholic Tradition and to apply them to contemporary problems in a holistic and clear way. *For online students, this oral exam will be administered through ZOOM during exam week.*

Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (January 15, 2021)

Eastern Christian Anthropology: Patristic Understanding of the Person

Lecture 2 (January 15, 2021)

Old Testament Understanding of Marriage

Lecture 3 (January 16, 2021)

New Testament Understanding of Marriage (Spousal Analogy, Sexual Roles)

Lecture 4 (February 5, 2021)

Patristic Understandings of Marriage I: Pre-Constantinian Christianity

Lecture 5 (February 5, 2021)

Patristic Understandings of Marriage II: Post-Constantinian Christianity

Lecture 6 (February 6, 2021)

Mystagogical Analysis of present marriage rite: Comparison to other Eastern Christian Marriage rites

Lecture 7 (February 26, 2021) *Theology of the Body paper due

Asceticism in Marriage (The monastic ideal, interiorized monasticism)

Lecture 8 (February 26, 2021)

Canons, Preparation for Marriage

Lecture 9 (February 27, 2021)

Sexual Revolution, Pastoral issues I- Family Planning (Contraception, NFP)

Lecture 10 (March 12, 2021)

Pastoral issues II – Cohabitation, Divorce and Remarriage

Lecture 11 (March 12, 2021)

Pastoral issues III – Chastity and Offences against Chastity (Fornication, Pornography, Masturbation)

Lecture 12 (March 13, 2021) *Book Report due

Contemporary Issues – Homosexuality, Gender, Celibacy and the Importance of the Family

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

All grading will be in accordance with NTC guidelines. Please see NTC Academic Regulation in the *Academic Calendar* (14-19) and below for more information. **Any request for an extension must be discussed with the professor at least one week prior to the due date and will be considered on a case by case basis.** Without a formal request for an extension, there will be a 5% grade reduction for each day past the due date (including weekends).

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. Attendance will be taken every class.

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 Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy. [Academic](#)

Grievances

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

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
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

Graduate Studies		
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
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

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.

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:

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.

Please use standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size.

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

**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 Student Handbook 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 his/her performance in class should contact his/her professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography

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