

CE2003 Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics (3 credits)

Fall 2016

Mondays 12:40-3:30

Classroom: DSPT 2

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

2301 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA 94708

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12:00 & by appointment

Course Description

This is a seminar course that will examine human sexuality from the perspective of the Roman Catholic tradition. We will investigate core principles and teachings about human sexuality. The course will read and analyze the core documents of the Church's teaching about human sexuality, as well as other resources, in order to explore the topics of marriage, family life, celibacy, and biomedical issues related to human sexuality.

The content of the course and the plan for teaching and learning will seek to meet both Institutional and Program Goals of DSPT. These directives offer guidance not only for specific courses of the Dominican School but other theology courses that contribute to intellectual, moral and spiritual development.

Institutional Goals:

1. ^{IG1} Pedagogical Goal: Deep Learning

OUTCOMES

^{IO1} **Integrative Thinking:** the ability to recognize, understand, retain, integrate, and apply the fundamental principles operative in a field of inquiry, and use them to make synthetic judgments.

^{IO2} **Intellectual Humility:** an orientation of mind and heart that fosters intellectual collaboration, precludes both rigidity and passivity of mind, and recognizes that contrary opinions are not a threat, but provide the opportunity to test and deepen one's own grasp of the truth.

^{IO3} **Self-Direction:** the disposition to take primary responsibility for one's own education, manifested in a keen intellectual interest in the topic of studies, and the ability to teach oneself through a habit of skilled and responsible research and resilient exploration.

2. ^{IG2} Vocational Goal: Collaborative Leadership

OUTCOMES

^{IO4} **Ability to Collaborate:** expressed in good listening and communication skills which foster decisions stemming from and leading to an open, transparent, and mutually enriching dialog with others in order that the gifts of all can be appropriately acknowledged and utilized

As a philosophical and theological school we believe that at the end of this course students will have applied integrative thinking, cultivated intellectual humility, and maintained good self direction during the course of study. They will also acquire a solid foundation of the topics explored by this specific course and discover ways for the application of this knowledge through further research, teaching or pastoral care.

MA Theology Program Goals

ThG 1 Foundational knowledge of the fundamental areas of theological inquiry in the Roman Catholic tradition (Biblical Studies, historical theology, dogmatic theology, and moral theology);

ThG 2 Specialized knowledge of one area of theological inquiry (area of concentration) chosen by the student;

ThG 3 Ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly writing;

ThG 4 Ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through oral presentations and discussions;

ThG 5 Ability to integrate contemporary theological issues with the tradition of the Catholic Church, and where possible with the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Masters of Divinity Program Goals

DivG 1 Communicate simply, accurately, and effectively the theological tradition of the Roman Catholic Church through preaching, teaching, and writing;

DivG 2 Preach in a manner that is grounded in scholarly methods of biblical interpretation, and is doctrinally sound, pastorally focused, and rhetorically effective;

DivG 3 Analyze, assess, and critique theological perspectives through scriptural, historical, and systematic theological methods, and to assist others in doing the same;

DivG 4 Fulfill their responsibilities with the moral, intellectual, psychological, and emotional maturity that grounds vigorous discipleship of Christ and priestly service to others;

DivG 5 Lead a faith community in prayer, worship and theological reflection, centered on the Eucharist, respecting both the liturgical tradition of the Church and the pastoral needs of the local community;

DivG 6 Apply the principles of the moral theology of St. Thomas Aquinas to pastoral situations in general and confessional situations in particular;

DivG 7 Lead and work collaboratively with others in a just, charitable, and generous manner, respecting the relevant cultural, social, and ecclesial circumstances, all the while maintaining professional, ethical boundaries;

DivG 8 Foster Church communion, demonstrated through personal and liturgical prayer, regular observance, and life in community.

Course Goals: At the end of the course students will be able to

1. *IG1; IO1,2; ThG1, 5; DivG1,3* Integrate their understanding of natural law, virtue, and human flourishing with the Church's teaching of human sexuality and principles of bio-medical ethics.
2. *IG1; ThG2; DivG 2* Possess a good foundation of the Catholic Church's teaching on Marriage, Family, and Celibate Life.
3. *IG1,2; IO2; ThG 5; DivG2,4,6* Offer critique and insight about contemporary debates concerning human sexuality, marriage, family, religious life, and related biomedical challenges.
4. *IG2; IO4, ThG 3; DivG 6,7* Recognize how the Church teachings contribute to the formation of the faithful in their particular vocations in Church and society.

Through Course Requirements*

1. *IO2; ThG2; DivG3* Attendance and Preparation of Readings for Classes (See Course Materials and Course Schedule below). Students will attend all class meetings. Absences from these sessions will affect their final grade.
2. *IG2, IO3,4; ThG 2; DivG7* Class Discussion Leader. Students will take turns leading the class discussion. Sign-up for being the discussion leader will take place the first week of class.
3. *IO2, 04 ThG 3, Th G 5; DivG1,4* Weekly Blog (Moodle Entries)
Students will post on moodle by Friday of each week their reflections on a question posted based on the scheduled readings. They will also reply to ONE student's posts by Sunday 5 pm.
4. *IO4, ThG3, Th G 5; DivG1,3* Research and Writing: TWO short papers. (5-6 pages each/ apx. 1,500 words) Paper One: Due Nov 7 and Paper Two: Due December 22
 - a. Style: Follow Turabian Format. 12pt Times Roman Font. Double spaced. Use footnotes and include bibliography or works cited for each assignment
 - b. General Topics: The paper can be based on the following:
 - i. Teaching Human Sexuality in a Pluralistic Society
 - ii. Marriage and Family
 - iii. Pastoral Issues in Sexual Ethics
 - iv. Health Care and Catholic Teaching

*grading criteria of the above four items: To what extent does the student demonstrate that s/he (1) comprehends the main points of the readings by making connections between themes and ideas of the readings and the topic of the assignments; (2) presents understanding and comments in a clear and timely fashion both orally and in writing; (3) shows creativity or originality in presenting and applying the materials by linking the readings with life experience and social realities.

Academic Honesty: All members of DSPT are expected to maintain ethical standards of honesty in their academic endeavors. Conduct which is contrary to academic honesty is subject to disciplinary action. Such conduct includes any activity which is aimed at falsely representing academic performance, such as cheating, plagiarizing, completing course work for another, falsifying records or data, submitting work previously presented in another course (unless authorized) intentionally assisting another student in any of these activities, and all similar conduct (Details on this policy are on pages 16-17 of DSPT Student Handbook).

Course Materials

The course readings will help us meet the goals articulated in the course description. These documents, books, articles, case studies and media presentations offer insights that will help us deepen our understanding of human sexuality. Official Catholic teaching on human sexuality is well represented in these materials. I have also included writings and lectures by various theologians who interpret these teachings.

Ashley, Benedict OP, Debois, and O'Rourke. *Catholic Health Care Ethics: A Catholic Theological Analysis*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2006. Fifth Edition. ISBN-13: 978-1-58901-116-8 \$35.69

Burke, Ravizza Bridget and Julie Donovan Massey. *Project Holiness: Marriage as a Workshop for Everyday Saints*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2015. ISBN 9780814637043. \$19.95

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. *Sex, Gender, and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge, University Press, 1998. ISBN 0521578485 \$39.81

Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia, On Love in the Family*. (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2015. ISBN 9781681920023 \$12.95

US Catholic Bishops. *Human Sexuality: A Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning*, USCC Publications, 1991. ISBN: 978-1-55586-405-7 \$11.95 (Available at <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1259>)

Church Documents and other materials will be made available through use of the library reserve or blackboard systems or these websites:

Vatican www.vatican.va US Bishops www.usccb.org

Additional Readings on Moodle. The materials will be reproduced and electronically distributed pursuant to the “Fair Use” (sec 107) and the Technology, Education, and Copyright Law (U.S. Code, title 17) Articles and Chapters listed is for one time use only in this course.

Video and Internet Resources: These materials are listed below according to themes and topics. All of these materials are in the public domain.

Reference Materials: These texts are available at GTU library

Austriaco, Nicanor Pier Giorgia, O.P. “*Biomedicine and Beatitude: An Introduction to Catholic Bioethics*, Washington, D.C.: Catholic University Press, 2011

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. *Sex, Gender, and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge, University Press, 1998.

Cameli, Louis J. *Catholic Teaching on Homosexuality: New Paths to Understanding*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2012

Coleman, Gerald, D. *Homosexuality: Catholic Teaching and Pastoral Practice*, New York: Paulist Press, 1995.

Farley, Margaret, “An Ethic for Same-Sex Relations,” in *Dialogue About Catholic Social Teaching* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993.

Genovesi, Vincent J. *In Pursuit of Love: Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality*. 2nd Ed. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press, 1998.

Jung, Patricia Beattie ed. *Sexual Diversity and Catholicism: Toward the Development of Moral Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001

O.Murchu, Diarmuid. *Poverty, Celibacy and Obedience: A Radical Option for Life*. New York, Crossroads, 1999.

Pope, Stephen J. ed. *Ethics of Aquinas*, Georgetown: Georgetown University Press, 2000

Scott, Kieran and Harold Daly Horell, *Human Sexuality in the Catholic Tradition*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007

Wilcox, Bradford W. and Nicholas H. Wolfinger. *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex and Love among African Americans and Latinos*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Course Topics and Assignments

I. Catholic Morality and Human Sexuality: General Introduction

September 12

What is sexuality? What are the foundations for Catholic sexual ethics? What is psychosexual development? What is the relationship between care of the body, human sexuality, and our call to Christian discipleship?

Narratives/Case Study

Look at this Case Study found on this website:

<http://www.scu.edu/r/ethics-center/ethicsblog/thebigq/11878/Sleeping-Around>

What would you say about Mike's position? Pay CLOSE attention to the replies/commentaries of the college students responding to this case. These entries reveal a lot about young people and sexuality

Documents:

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. *Human Sexuality: A Catholic Perspective for Education and Life-Long Learning* (Chapters 1 and 2 pp. 1-27)

Video: Reflect on this presentation by Father Coleman. What is our understanding of sexuality and current concerns?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkF_gV21XMo

Articles/Chapters:

Ashley, Deblois, and O'Rourke, Chapters 1 and 2 "Bio-medical Ethics" and "Ethics and Needs of the Human Person"

Cahill, Chapters 1 and 2 "Sex, Gender, and the Problem of Moral Argument" and "Feminism and Foundations"

September 19 and September 26

How is our growth in goodness rooted in a freedom for excellence? What is the relationship between virtue, human sexuality, and care of the body?

September 19

Narrative/Case Studies (On Moodle)

View this video—The Great Divorce: Sexual Ethics and Human Flourishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVmgoSVnEFU>

Articles/Chapters

Burke-Ravizza and Massey *Project Holiness* Introduction, Appendix and Chapter 1
Cates, "Temperance" in *Ethics of Aquinas*. This article is an overview of Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, II-II, qq. 141-170 on "Temperance."

Jung, Beattie Patricia, “The Promise of Postmodern Hermeneutics for Biblical Renewal in Moral Theology” in *Sexuality Diversity and Catholicism* (On Moodle)
 Laverdiere, Eugene, Chapter 1 “Human Sexuality and the Witness of the New Testament”(On Moodle)

September 26

Continue the Discussion on Virtue and Human Sexuality

Documents:

USCCB, *Human Sexuality*, Chapters 3, 4

Articles/ Chapters

Cahill, Chapter 3 and 4 “Particular Experiences, Shared Goods” “The Body in Context”
 Genovesi, Chapter 4 "A Context for the Meaning and Morality of Sexuality" (On Moodle)

II: Human Sexuality and Character: Marriage, Family and Vowed Life

October 3 and October 10

Matrimony: What is martial sexuality according to the Catholic Church’s teaching? How do you understand matrimony as a sacrament? How are married persons called to virtue? How are they ministers for the Church and society?

Narratives/Case Studies

Burke-Ravizza and Massey *Project Holiness* Chapters 2 and 3

Marriage: A Proposal: <https://issuu.com/church21c/docs/c21-fall-2007>

Sections from *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex and Love among African Americans and Latinos*

Documents:

Gaudium et spes (Sections____

http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html

Humanae Vitae (25 July 1968) Encyclical Letter Pope Paul VI.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html

Articles/Chapters

Cahill, Chapters 5 “Sex, Gender, and the Early Church.”

October 17**Family**

Narratives/Case Studies

Burke-Ravizza and Massey *Project Holiness* Chapters 4 and 5

Sections from *Soul Mates: Religion, Sex and Love among African Americans and Latinos*

Documents:

Familiaris Consortio (22 November 1982) Apostolic Exhortation Pope John Paul II
(Sections _____)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* 1-3

Articles/Chapters

Cahill, Chapter 6 “Sex, Marriage, and Family in Christian Tradition”

October 31

Narratives/Case Studies

Burke-Ravizza and Massey *Project Holiness* Chapters 6 and Conclusion

Documents:

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* 4-6

November 7**Birth Technologies**

Narratives/Case Studies

TBA

Documents:

Pontifical Academy for Life, “The Dignity of Human Procreation and Reproductive Technologies: Anthropological and Ethical Aspects” (2004)

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pont-acd_life_doc_20040316_x-gen-assembly-final_en.html

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, Chapters 7-9

Articles and Chapters:

Ashley, Deblois, and O’Rourke, Chapter 3, “Sexuality and Reproduction”

Cahill, Chapter 7, “New Birth Technologies and the Public Argument”

November 14

Celibacy: Priesthood and Religious Life

Narratives/Case Studies

Our Congregations: History and Constitutions

Documents

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

Vita Consecrata (1996) On the Consecrated Life and its Mission in the Church and in the World

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_25031996_vita-consecrata.html

Articles/Chapters: (On Moodle)

Scott and Horell, Chapter 9, “The Gift of Celibacy”

O’Murchu, Chapter 2, “The Nature of Vowed Commitment” and Chapter 3 “Celibacy: Is Nonviolent Sexuality Possible?”

III: Human Sexuality: Same-Sex Attraction, Bisexuality, and Transgender Persons

November 21 and November 28

What is same-sex attraction, transgender identity, and bisexuality? What are the Church teachings and what should be the Church’s pastoral outreach?

Narratives/Case Studies

Video: *Growing up Trans*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/growing-up-trans/>

Documents:

- a. *Letter on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons* (1 October 1986) Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith.
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19861001_homosexual-persons_en.html
- b. *Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers* (10 September 1997) Statement of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on Marriage and Family
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/homosexuality/always-our-children.cfm>
- c. *Ministry to Persons with Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care* Statement of the United States Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006.
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/homosexuality/upload/ministry-persons-homosexual-inclination-2006.pdf>

Articles/Chapters (On Moodle)

Callahan, Sidney, "Homosexuality, Moral Theology and Scientific Evidence"

Coleman, Gerald, *Homosexuality: Catholic Teaching and Pastoral Practice*. Chapters 1 and 8

Farley, Margaret "An Ethic for Same-Sex Relations"

Whitehead, James and Evelyn, "Transgender Lives: From Bewilderment to God's Extravagance"

IV: Church as Educator and Advocate

December 5 and December 12

How does the Church promote a holistic understanding of sexuality and human development? How do we witness to this holistic approach?

Topics/ Narratives/Case Studies

Abortion; Pedophilia in the Church; Cyber-sex and Human Trafficking;

Reconstructing and Modifying the Human Body

Medical Health Programs

Documents:

USCCB, *Human Sexuality* Chapter 5

Material on <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/index.cfm>

Amoris Laetitia, Chapters 7-9

Articles and Chapters

Ashley, Debois, and O'Rourke, Chapters 4 and 5, "Reconstructing and Modifying the human Body: Ethical Perspectives" and "Mental Health: Ethical Perspectives," and 7 "Social Responsibility"

Grabowski, *Sex and Virtue*, Chapter 7 "Teaching Sex: Education, Sexuality, and Character" (On Moodle)