

Course Description: This course explores significant moments in the developmental history of the Catholic moral tradition as well as basic themes such as the human person as moral agent, the meaning and limits of human freedom, the role and rights of conscience, the importance of virtue in the moral life, issues of method, the use of Scripture in moral theology and the importance of engaging human experience in the moral life.

Course Goals: Students will ...

- Understand significant influences on the historical development of the Catholic moral tradition;
- Be able to articulate core concepts and themes of the Catholic moral tradition;
- Understand the appropriate relationship between institutional authority and individual conscience;
- Grasp the unbreakable connection between moral choice and character development, that is between what we *do* and who we *are and are becoming*.
- Consider contemporary moral issues from the perspective of the Catholic moral tradition.

Recognizing that grappling with issues of moral theology can be contentious at times, our approach will be to engage respectfully in a mutually critical examination of the Catholic moral tradition. Students will be expected to be open to and respectful of both the reality and experience of differing perspectives.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students will ...	Practices engaged	Indications of meeting this outcome
Gain an understanding of Catholic moral theology as a living, evolving tradition	Close reading of texts Excellence in oral and written communication Analysis of social context	Evidence in class discussions that readings have been done consistently and student has critically engaged the subject matter. Evidence in position paper
Understand and critique the insights of contemporary theologians on their approaches to both the moral tradition and specific moral issues	Close reading of texts Excellence in oral and written communication	Evidence in participation in class discussions Evidence in position paper
Identify and explain new insights, questions and or challenges gained by the study Catholic moral theology	Excellence in oral and written communication. Close reading of texts. Analysis of social context.	Evidence in participation in class discussions Evidence in position paper

Required Texts:

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. (CCC)
<http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc.htm>

John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* (encyclical letter, 1993).
<http://www.vatican.va/edocs/ENG0222/INDEX.HTM>

Odozor, Paulinus Ikechukwu, C.S.Sp. *Moral Theology in an Age of Renewal*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.

Pinckaers, Servais. O.P. *Morality: The Catholic View*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2001.

Recommended Texts:

Keating, James, ed. *Moral Theology: New Directions and Fundamental Issues*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2004.

Mahoney, John. *The Making of Moral Theology: A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989.