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3 credits**Tuesday 3:45-6:15 PM****Room 212**

Catholic moral theology draws from Scriptures, Tradition, the Magisterium, theology, philosophy, and the social sciences in order to respond in a faith-based, rational, and systematic way to classical questions of right and wrong and to contemporary ethical issues of personal and global import.

Course Description:

The course provides a *foundational* and *systematic overview* of the main components of Catholic moral theology: its biblical bases, its historical and on-going development, its major foci (*e.g.*, human freedom and its limits, the human person as moral agent, the nature of the human act, the role and rights of conscience, the place of virtue in the moral life, natural law, *etc.*), and its various methodologies for moral decision-making and problem-solving. The main aim of the course is to aid candidates to the Roman Catholic Priesthood and lay ecclesial ministers to develop a preliminary self-understanding of how a minister integrates ethical knowledge and pastoral sensitivity.

Course Objectives:

This course draws on the traditional understanding of morality - according to the general framework given by Saint Thomas Aquinas in the I-IIae of his *Summa Theologiae*- while more broadly engaging contemporary literature on Christian ethics and moral theory. This concurrence will allow the student:

- to *think systematically* about the Christian moral life within the framework of the Catholic tradition;
- to acquire specialized knowledge of the unique Catholic moral theology's *terminology*;
- to gain an understanding of the nature and *methodology* of Catholic moral theology;
- to develop a general sense of the *on-going history* and *development* of Catholic moral theology;
- to understand and appreciate the dignity and challenge of *Christian discipleship* and the sources of moral wisdom within the Christian community;
- to discover some of the tools offered by Catholic moral theology in order to guide *moral decision-making* and *problem-solving*; and
- to develop a preliminary *self-understanding* of how a minister integrates ethical knowledge and pastoral sensitivity.

Required Texts:

Augustine, Saint, *Of the Morals of the Catholic Church*, available at:

<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1401.htm>

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City 1993. Available at: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm>

International Theological Commission, *Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles and Criteria*, (November 29, 2011), Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City 2011. Available at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_cti_doc_20111129_tologia-oggi_en.html

John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* [Encyclical letter on the *Splendor of Truth*], (August 6, 1993), available at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_06081993_veritatis-splendor_en.html

Odozor, Paulinus Ikechukwu, *Moral Theology in an Age of Renewal: A Study of the Catholic Tradition Since Vatican II*, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN 2003.

Pinckaers, Servais, *The Sources of Christian Ethics*, The Catholic University of America Press, Washington, D.C. 1995.

Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Bible and Morality: Biblical Roots of Christian Conduct*, (May 11, 2008), Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City 2008. Available at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20080511_bibbia-e-morale_en.html

Stephen J. Pope, *The Ethics of Aquinas*, Georgetown University Press, Georgetown 2002.

The New Jerusalem Bible, D. H. Wansbrough, ed., Darton, Longman & Todd/Les Editions Du Cerf, Westminster 1985. Available at: <http://www.veritasbible.com/newjerusalem1989>

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, available at: <http://www.corpusthomicum.org/iopera.html> - English version available at: <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/summa/index.html>