

COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY NAME: Kenneth M. Diable

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE NUMBER: RS202.01 **COURSE TITLE:** Christian Moral Theology

TERM: Fall 2005 **COURSE TIME:** Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00am-9:20Am

ROOM #: AC 113 **COURSE CREDITS:** 3 credit hrs.--classroom

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Department of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Theology at Mount Aloysius College is to encourage students to consider their lives in the larger context of human society, by attending to the fundamental spiritual quest for truth. It draws particularly from the Catholic tradition, based on the belief in God revealed through scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ.

The department serves all members of the College community regardless of religious commitment. While rooted in Catholic tradition, the department does not insist on knowledge of, or active participation in, Catholic tradition as a prerequisite. Instead, it seeks to offer all students a chance to explore questions common to all human beings, paying particular attention to the Catholic tradition as a resource for addressing these questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Following a brief review of the nature and scope of moral theology, participants will examine such topics as (Catholic) Christian faith in relation to moral life, happiness, goodness, evil and sin, moral growth, and conscience, followed by a review of specific moral issues.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Policy on Academic Honesty and Integrity in the College Catalog, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the test or assignment. Instructors will further determine appropriate action in response to the violation of academic integrity.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability which many require special consideration, you should notify the professor. This should be accomplished no later than the second class meeting. If you should need accommodations for successful participation in class activities, you should offer information in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs which includes suggestions for assistance in participating in and completing class assignments. It is not necessary to disclose the nature of your disability.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

The student will develop an understanding of the complexity of Christian ethical systems.

The student will learn a variety of Christian moral systems.

The student will become aware of how the Bible is used and abused in Christian Ethics and Christian moral systems.

The student will develop a methodology for critiquing the various Christian Ethical and moral systems.

The student will use this methodology to study various moral issues facing them and the world both on the social and individual levels.

GRADING SYSTEM

- 3.50 to 4.0+ equals **A**
- 3.25 to 3.49 equals **B+**
- 3.00 to 3.24 equals **B**
- 2.50 to 2.99 equals **C+**
- 2.00 to 2.49 equals **C**
- 1.01 to 1.99 equals **D**
- 1.00 or less equals **F**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The student will read the assigned pages in the textbook on the designated day for discussion.

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE ENTERED INTO THE DAILY DISCUSSION IN CLASS.

THE STUDENT WILL ATTEND CLASS REGULARY—1/4 OF THE GRADE WILL DEPEND UPON ATTENDANCE.

0-2 classes missed—4.0
3 classes missed—3.0
4 classes missed—2.0
5-5+ classes missed—0

The student will have handed in a book review of any short story by any author—after consulting the instructor—on any of the subjects studied. The report will be due **ON TIME: Tuesday November 21 (1/4 of grade)**.

The student will have completed and handed in **ON TIME** a mid-term examination (***1/4 of grade***).

The student will have completed and handed in **ON TIME** a final examination (***1/4 of grade***).

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

08/29 Introductory Material—no assignment
08/31 Introductory Material—no assignment
09/05 Gustafson, 1-43; handout—Noahcide Laws
09/08 Genesis 1-11; Exodus 1-15, 20:1-17
09/12 Gustafson, 44-82
09/14 Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 16:18-17:20, 26:5-11, 30:11-20

09/19 Gustafson, 83-113; Matthew 5:1-7:29
09/21 Gustafson, 114-131; The Book of Romans

09/26 Gustafson, 132-164
09/28 Hanigan, 1-21, Write out answers to question
 ##3, 5 on page 20. **MID-TERM HANDED OUT**

10/03 Hanigan, 22-49
10/05 Write out answers to question ##1, 3, 4, 5 on
page 48.

10/10 Hanigan, 50-75
10/12 Write out answers to question ##4, 5 on page 74
MID-TERM DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

10/17 **NO CLASS MID-TERM BREAK**
10/19 Class discussion on stages of moral development

10/24 and 10/26	Hanigan, 76-100; Questions 1, 4, page 99
10/31 and 11/02	Hanigan, 101-118; questions 1-5, page 117
11/07 and 11/09	Hanigan, 119-144; questions, 1, 3-5, pages 142-43
11/14 and 11/16	Hanigan, 145-165; questions 2, 4-5, page 164
11/21	discussion of short story reviews
11/23	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING DAY
11/28 and 11/30	Hanigan, 166-189; questions 2, 4-5, page 188 FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT ON 12/01
12/05 and 12/07	Hanigan, 190-208
12/13 and 12/15	Hanigan, 209-227 LAST DAY OF CLASS ON 12/15 FINAL EXAMS DUE LAST DAY OF CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Gustafson, Scott W. *Biblical Amnesia*. West Conshohocken: Infinity Publishing.com, 2004.

Hanigan, James P. *As I Have Loved You The Challenge of Christian Ethics*. New York and Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1986.

A Bible—one of the following: *Revised Standard Version, New English Bible, New American Standard, New King James, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version*

AUXILIARY TEXTS

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIES AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER OF HANIGAN

Barnet, Richard, J. *Roots of War*. New York: Atheneum, 1972.

Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckman. *The social Construction of Reality*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967.

Berger, Peter. *A Rumor of Angels*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1969.

Bernardin, Joseph Cardinal. *Consistent Ethic of Life*. Edited by Thomas G. Fuechtmann. Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1988.

Bettsworth, Roger G. *Social Ethics an Examination of American Moral Traditions*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.

Challenge of Peace, The God's Promise and Our Response, The (A Pastoral Letter on War and Peace—The National Conference of Catholic Bishops). Washington D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1983.

Connors, Russell B., Jr. & Patrick T. McCormick. *Character, Choices & Community The Three Faces of Christian Ethics*. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1998.

_____. *Facing Ethical Issues Dimensions of Character, Choice and Community*. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2002.

Coleman, John A., ed. *One Hundred Years of Catholic Social Thought: Celebration and Challenge*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1991.

Cone, James H. *God of the Oppressed*. Revised Edition. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1997.

Coward, Harold, ed. *Population, Consumption, and the Environment: Religious and Secular Responses*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1995.

Dark David. *The Gospel According to America*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox press, 2005.

Drinan, Robert F. *The Cry of the Oppressed*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.

Dwyer, Judith A., ed. *The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1994.

Eisler, Raine. *The Chalice & The Blade*. San Francisco: HarperSanfrancisco, 1987.

Ferm, Deane William, ed. *Third World Liberation Theologies A Reader*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1986.

Haughey, John C., ed. *The Faith that Does Justice: Examining the*

- Christian Sources for Social Change*. New York: Paulist Press, 1977.
- Heinecken, Martin. *Christian Teachings*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1967.
- Hintz, Sandy. *Peace Talk*. Hales Corners: SCJ Office of Justice and Peace, Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers, 1983. **N.B. several copies on Library reserve.**
- Henriot, Peter J., Edward P. DeBerri and Michael J. Schultheis. *Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1985.
- Kozol, Jonathan. *Rachel and Her Children Homeless Families in America*. New York: Ballentine Books, 1988.
- Leiden, Carl and Karl M. Schmitt. *The Politics of Violence: Revolution in the Modern World*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1968.
- Lens, Sidney. *Poverty: America's Enduring Paradox*. Updated Edition. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1971.
- Maguire, Daniel C. *The Moral Core of Judaism and Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Maguire, Daniel C. and Larry L. Rasmussen. *Ethics for a Small Planet*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998.
- Maguire, Daniel C. *A Moral Creed for All Christians*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Massaro, Thomas, S.J. *Living Justice, Catholic Social Teaching in Action*. Lanham, Chicago, New York and Oxford: Sheed & Ward, 2000.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper and Row, 1951.
- Pawlikowski, John T., O.S.M. and Donald Senior, C.P., eds. *Biblical and Theological reflections on the Challenge of Peace*. THEOLOGY AND LIFE, Vol. 10. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1984.
- Phan, Peter C., ed. *Social Thought: Messages of the Fathers of the Church*. Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1984.

Wallis, Jim, *God's Politics A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.