

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2008**
Instructor: M. Therese Lysaught
Course #: Theo 179
Section: 1002
Course Title: Special Topics in Moral Theology
Course Sub-Title: Justice and Morality

Description:

This section of “Special Topics in Moral Theology” seeks to introduce theology majors to three important components of Catholic moral thought. The first are the important resources for thinking about justice and morality contained within official church teaching – specifically, selected documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Catechism, and recent papal encyclicals. The second is the discipline of moral theology, the church’s historical practice of how to think about the moral dimensions of the Christian life. The third are exemplars of the Christian life, including but not limited to: Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement; Oscar Romero; and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin. By engaging these texts, students will deepen their appreciation for the beauty, richness, wisdom, and practical power of the Catholic tradition; will wrestle with specific moral questions (euthanasia, abortion, capital punishment, war); and will hopefully emerge equipped with resources for thinking about the shape of their own lives as forms of Christian discipleship.

This course is designed specifically to assist those who plan to teach justice and morality within the Catholic school context. The course will be equally valuable to theology majors pursuing other forms of ministry, both traditional and non-traditional. Service-learning will be a required component of the course.

Required texts:

The Documents of Vatican II, edited by Austin Flannery. Costello Publishing, 1996. ISBN: 0918344379. These documents are also available from the Vatican website. If you prefer to print them from there, that will be fine. (We will not be reading them all. We will focus on the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*) and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen gentium*)).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church. Image Publishing, 1995. ISBN: 0385479670.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, *The Gift of Peace*. Image Publishing, 1998. ISBN: 0385494343.

James Brockman, *Romero: A Life*. Orbis Press, 2005. ISBN: 157075599X.

Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*. Harper Publishers, 1996. ISBN: 0060617519.

Department of Theology

David McCarthy and M. Therese Lysaught, eds. *Gathered for the Journey: Moral Theology in Catholic Perspective*. Eerdmans, 2007. ISBN: 0802825958.

NCCB, *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*. Hunter Publishing, 1984. ISBN: 1555868630.

Paul Wadell, *Happiness and the Christian Moral Life*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2007. ISBN: 0742551792.