University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary

Course Title: YLSM/YSM/YMM 9314: Contemporary Issues in Ethics
Semester: Spring, 2015
Instructor: Fr. John Osom, Msp
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A. Course Description
This course will examine the various contemporary Ethical Issues confronting humanity. Particular attention will be focused on what guiding principles man should adopt in the light of his dignity as a human being and as a Christian to avoid being dragged into the mud in the face of these challenges.

B. Course outline
Introduction: Man as an ethical being and as such he has to freely choose the good which conforms to his human nature and avoid evil options capable of destroying him or his neighbor following the discoveries of modern sciences intended to help rather than ruin him. It is against this background that the following topics will be examined: (1) Just Wages, (2) Just War, (3) Immigration, (4) Same Sex Relationships, (5) Abortion & its Legalization (6) Cloning, (7) Artificial Reproduction Technologies, (8) Pre-natal Testing, (9) Genetic Engineering, (10) Capital Punishment, (11) Cohabitation, (12) Distribution of Health Care, (13) Transplantation, (14) Marijuana, (15) Domestic Violence, (16) Political Responsibility, (17) Discrimination, and (18) Pornography.

C. Course Objectives
Love of one’s neighbor cuts across the whole spectrum of the issues based on the Christian principle that "whatever you wish that people should do to you, do so to them". The course seeks to offer students a comprehension and appreciation of ethics in general and the application of the ethical Issues as much as possible.

D. Format
Some key topics will be covered by lecture and discussion while others will be assigned to students for individual presentation and assessment as well as personal input to be graded on command and comprehension by the instructor as part of the examination. It is going to be between ten and twelve pages, typed, double spaced and serve as an alternative approach to the one taken by the lecturer of the course. There are few recommended books on reserve in the library apart from the papal encyclicals assessed from one’s laptop.

E. Schedule
2015 Spring lectures on Contemporary Ethical issues will commence on Monday, January 12th and continue on Monday nights, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

1. Papal Encyclicals on Just wage:
   (i) Leo XIII, 1891, Rerum Novarum
(ii) Pius XII, 1931, Quadragesimo Anno
(iii) John Paul II. 1981, Laborem Exercens
(iv) John Paul II, 1991, Centesimus Annus
(v) Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1992

2 Abortion:
(i) Paul VI, 1968, Humanae Vitae
(ii) Roman Catholicism & Abortion Access.

3. USBCCB : The Catholic Church, Homosexuality and Gay Marriage'
N/B; The above is simply under "Magisterial Documents".

F. Recommended Text Books


G. Suggested Bibliography for Additional Reading
(i) Kleponis Peter, The pornography Epidemic; A Catholic Approach, Simon Peter Press (available through www.womenofgrace.com