1 What is Christ and the Moral Life?

Christ and the Moral Life is an upper-level introduction to two things:

- what the Catholic Church teaches about the fullness of human life, in the light of Christ &
- how those teachings are made sense of theologically.

Theological reflection depends on the harmonious cooperation of reason and faith, directed at the sources of revelation (i.e., Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium). The study of theology is the pinnacle of the Catholic intellectual tradition, and hence of a Catholic education. This course, the third core theology course, builds on the dogmatic and scriptural foundations presented in the first two core theology classes, which are pre-requisite for it, as are the first two core philosophy courses.

2 What am I supposed to get out of this course?

In general, at the course’s end, you will come away able to articulate, defend, and explain theologically basic theoretical underpinnings and general moral principles of the spiritual life as elevated by grace. You will also be able to explain the concepts and principles underlying the practice of the virtues and extirpation of the vices. Along the way, you will also become more familiar with the history of Catholic moral reflection, and pick up a great deal of specialized terminology necessary for theology. (A more detailed list of course outcomes appears at the end of the syllabus.)

3 Your professor

Instructor: Andrew J. Hayes, PhD; Office: 207 Hughes House; Telephone: 713 525 3585; Email: hayesaj@stthom.edu; Office Hours: MW 1:45-4:15 PM; Th (online) 4:30-6:30 PM; Sat (online) 8:30-10:30 PM Curriculum Vitae: link
4 What books do I need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Is it required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athanasius: The Life of Antony and Letter to Marcellinus</td>
<td>9780809122950</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Incarnation</td>
<td>9780881414097</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality: The Catholic View</td>
<td>9781587315152</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catechism of the Catholic Church</td>
<td>9780385479677</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Holy Bible RSV-CE</td>
<td>9781586177706</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little, Brown Handbook, compact edition</td>
<td>9780321986504</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith, Hope, Love</td>
<td>9780898706239</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screwtape Letters</td>
<td>9780060652937</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Things to expect

This is a hybrid course divided into four units, arranged by weeks. The amount of reading is approximately the same as a regularly scheduled course. You should therefore expect a large amount of reading, to be done largely on your own. In-person group meetings are on Monday. Each week, after doing the readings and the video lectures, you have two participation options. You may take a challenging online quiz on the week’s material (pass/fail), or you may meet online using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra for a tutorial with the professor; you must actively participate in and pass at least 8 tutorials or pass 8 quizzes (in any combination). For the tutorial sessions, you can choose from a range of available time slots, but you must schedule in advance using Bookedin (see link below). Students can meet online with the professor either individually or in small groups. A screencast is available to show you how to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Note that each online quiz may be retaken as often as necessary before the week’s end. After that point, your quiz grade is permanent.

The main components of the course are readings from textbooks or Blackboard, relatively short video lectures designed to accompany the readings, and various study guides and digital whiteboards, also available via Blackboard.

Your performance is evaluated principally through a paper, four précis, the graded online tutorials/quizzes, an oral midterm, and a written final examination. The précis are short summaries of 600-800 words, on specific readings. The readings assigned for summarization are chosen to integrate with other assignments. The first three précis may be revised and resubmitted up to one week after their respective due dates. The course grade is based on a criterion system, rather
than a weighted calculation. On particular assignments, as a general rule, the grade recorded is based on my judgment, not on a specific numerical formula. To earn a particular course grade you must exceed all the minimum criteria (see table below) for that grade. If you do not meet all of these minimum criteria, you earn the next lowest grade. Fractions of letter grades are given at my discretion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>paper &amp; exams</th>
<th>précis</th>
<th>tutorials &amp; quizzes</th>
<th>course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A;A;B (at least two A’s and one B, any sequence)</td>
<td>pass 3</td>
<td>pass 8</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B;B;C (at least two B’s and one C, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>pass 6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C;C;D</td>
<td>pass 1</td>
<td>pass 4</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D;D;D</td>
<td></td>
<td>pass 3</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The principle behind this grading system is very simple: to earn an A, all or nearly all your work in the course must be excellent (A-level) work. If all or nearly all your work is at the B-level, then you earn a B. If all your work is at the C-level, then you earn a C. What about cases in which your work is a mix of achievement levels? In such cases, generally speaking, your category grade reflects your median level of achievement in that category, subject to my professional judgment, within but not beholden to, the guidelines given in the table above. Note, however, that if you fail either the paper or the final exam, you fail the course as a whole. Because your grade is not weighted, good performance in one assignment category does not outweigh poor performance in another. Notice, however, that there is some leniency at the top end. Progress in a particular category may be grounds for the upward revision of your course grade.

The paper prompt and more detailed standards for grades on papers and exams are available separately, via Blackboard. All assignments, video lectures, study questions, oral preparation questions, and study guides will be available through Blackboard. In addition, other aspects of course business will be conducted electronically:

- **scheduling:** click here for the Bookedin online service;
- **paper submission:** click here for Turnitin ID 13237904; password: polycar_16f
- **grades:** each student receives a private dropbox folder for grades and feedback;
- **required readings:** click here for Blackboard;
- **communication:** via uST email or Blackboard Collaborate only;
5.1 A note on the expectation of participation and engagement

You are expected to plan your time carefully so that you do not fall behind. Each week you are responsible for thoughtful preparation of the assigned readings and use of the video lectures. For each online tutorial you attend you should come prepared to answer specific questions orally (these may be supplied to you in advance) and ready to discuss the reading associated with the tutorial. You should have each précis turned in by midnight Sunday.

6 Schedule of topics and assignments (subject to change)

As a general rule, prepare ALL material in the Blackboard folder for each unit, even if it does not appear on this syllabus. Prepare assignments in the order in which they appear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (8/22-8/28)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>class:</strong> Introduction to the Problem of Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>readings, videos, tutorials:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. quotations from the Protagoras (BB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. video lectures on the Protagoras (BB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. I (BB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. video lectures on Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. I (BB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>tutorial session on Plato and Aristotle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. video lectures on knowledge in theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Athenasius: Life of Antony, pp. 29-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. first précis on Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. I (turnitin) due 8/28 by 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2-3 (8/29-9/11)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>class:</strong> Discussion on the Life of Antony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>readings, videos, tutorials:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Athenasius, Life of Antony, pp. 64-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pinckaers, pp. 1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Athanasius: On the Incarnation, pp. 53-73
4. video lectures on Athanasius On the Incarnation
5. tutorial session on Athanasius
6. (following Labor Day) tutorial session on knowledge in theology
7. Catechism, §1691-1775

Week 4 (9/12-9/18)

class: Discussion on the Life of Antony (faith and reason)

readings, videos, tutorials:

1. Pinckaers, pp. 7-31
2. Gospel of Matthew 5-7; Letter of James 1-2
3. selections from St. Ephrem (BB)
4. selections from the Summa (BB)
5. Pinckaers video lectures, parts 1-5
6. tutorial session on Aquinas on the moral object
7. second précis on selections from the Summa (turnitin) due 9/18 by 11:59 PM

Week 5 (9/19-9/25)

class: Clarifying Pinckaers’ Approach and Recent Moral Theology

readings, videos, tutorials:

1. Pinckaers, pp. 32-62
2. Pinckaers video lectures, parts 6-7
3. C.S. Lewis The Three Parts of Morality (BB)
4. video lectures on C.S. Lewis
5. tutorial session on three central concepts (happiness, virtue, and law) and on the moral object

6. Catechism §1176-1802

Week 6 (9/26-10/2)

class: Summation on Proportionalism and the Definition of the Good

readings, videos, tutorials:
1. Veritatis Splendor selections (BB)
2. tutorial session on Veritatis Splendor
3. study for your midterm

Week 7-8 (10/3-10/16)

class: Midterm Week

readings, videos, tutorials:
1. schedule an in-person midterm between 10/3 and 10/7
2. human acts and freedom of choice (BB)
3. Catechism, §1803-1876
4. Cessario on the virtues (BB)
5. (schedule for after Fall Break) tutorial session on human acts and freedom of choice
6. third précis on Cessario on the virtues (turnitin) due 10/16 by 11:59 PM

Week 9 (10/17-10/23)

class: Introduction to Pinckaers’ Theoretical Approach

readings, videos, tutorials:
1. Pinckaers, pp. 65-81
2. video lectures on Pinckaers on Freedom and Happiness
3. video lectures on freedom and truth
4. selections from the Summa Contra Gentiles (BB)
5. video lectures on justice and personhood
6. tutorial session on justice and personhood

**Week 10 (10/24-10/30)**
**class:** Summation on Freedom and Happiness

**readings, videos, tutorials:**
1. Pinckaers, pp. 81-111
2. Pieper, Happiness and Contemplation (BB)
3. Catechism, §§1949-2051
4. tutorial session on law and natural law

**Week 11 (10/31-11/6)**
**class:** Discussion on Happiness and Contemplation

**readings, videos, tutorials:**
1. selections from Spidlik’s Spirituality (BB)
2. selections from Cassian on prayer and thoughts (BB)
3. video lectures on Spidlik
4. selection from Torrell (BB)
5. tutorial session on Spidlik and the passions
6. Catechism, §§2258-2330

**Week 12 (11/7-11/13)**
**class:** The Human Good in Community

**readings, videos, tutorials:**
1. Screwtape Letters, chapters 1-9 and 18-27
2. video lectures on the Screwtape Letters
3. **tutorial session on the Screwtape Letters**
5. fourth précis on Screwtape Letters, chapters 1-9 and 18-27 (turnitin) due 11/13 by 11:59 PM

**Week 13 (11/14-11/20)**

**class:** Introduction to Love

**readings, videos, tutorials:**
1. selections from Aquinas on charity (BB)
2. selections from Isaac the Syrian on charity (BB)
4. Pieper, selections on chastity (BB)
5. **tutorial session on Pieper on Lust**
6. Catechism, §2331-2400
7. comparison/contrast paper (turnitin) due 11/20 by 11:59 PM

**Week 14 (11/21-11/27)**

**class:** Summation on Pieper on Love and Lust

**readings, videos, tutorials:**
1. Pieper, Faith Hope Love, pp. 91-138
2. Catechism, §2464-2513
3. **no tutorial session**

**Week 15 (11/28-12/4)**

**class:** Summation on Hope

**readings, videos, tutorials:**
7 Rules

Rules are of two types: course-wide rules and assignment-specific rules.

**course-wide rules:** these apply to the course as a whole. All violations carry the same penalty: a full letter reduction in the course grade. This reduction can, however, be reversed if the problem is corrected and not repeated. The penalty does not accumulate (e.g., two violations are the same as one), but multiple, uncorrected violations will result in a failing grade for the course, at my discretion.

**attendance, etc.:** You are marked absent after five min. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences, or between absence and lateness. Late papers or précis are not accepted. Any missed précis, paper, or exam is recorded as failing. Apart from exceptions listed below, no makeups are permitted. The penalty applies after six absences/latenesses.

**preparation for discussions and tutorials** You are expected to come to classes and online tutorials with all prior material prepared. For tutorials, this specifically includes the video lectures. You should focus your preparation on any oral questions, if they are provided in advance, but you are always responsible for any of the material in the video lectures or readings. Failure to bring the reading material for the oral discussion will result in being marked absent. (Readings from Blackboard may be accessed electronically in class, if you wish.)

**general rules on papers:** Papers must conform to assignment expectations in all particulars, including grammatical correctness, proper length, Chicago citation style (footnote-bibliography, with use of Latin abbreviations in footnotes when the style guide calls for it). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Further specifications are available with the assignment prompt, and must be followed to the letter. Note in particular that papers are accepted ONLY via Turnitin.

**accommodations:** Students who have a right to an academic accommodation must give me the official letter stipulating their specific arrangements. The student remains responsible for scheduling the final exam in the testing center and notifying me of the scheduled time at least three days prior.
technology: I’m not opposed to the use of technology in principle, but experience shows that smartphones are a distraction for everyone in the room. There are two and only two acceptable places for a phone in my classroom: up front recording the lecture or put away, silenced, off or in airplane mode. Treat the classroom like a sacred space dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. If you don’t, you will be marked absent. Laptops and tablets for note taking in class are acceptable. You are expected to use a computer to access the online videos and participate in tutorial sessions.

preparation: You must have all the required textbooks, ideally as soon as the class begins, but no later than the second class session. Their ISBN numbers must match those on the syllabus, and e-books are not permitted. It is the student’s responsibility, not the bookstore’s, to arrange to have the proper books. You must come to class with readings prepared. If I realize you are not prepared, you will be marked absent.

meetings: I encourage you to meet with me outside of the classroom, especially for paper guidance. Appointments should be scheduled using Bookedin, my online scheduling service.

communication: You must use university email for electronic correspondence with me. Inside tutorial sessions, you are encouraged to use the messaging system built in to Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Any lost or missed communication as a result of using third party email, or failing to maintain one’s UST email account under quota will be considered the student’s fault. Papers are never accepted via email.

struggling students: Ordinarily, the nature of the course and of its policies does not permit students to compensate for poor performance early on. A good grade demands good performance in the entirety of the course. Nevertheless, students who struggle early in the course or who, for instance, miss a major assignment, should consult me for assistance. Subject to my review and at my sole discretion, I may allow for effort and truly substantive improvement to counterbalance intial poor performance, especially if it is clear that a student’s improvement is consistent.

video lecture use: All video lectures and other original material is copyrighted by me. You are granted permission to view and use the videos for study in this course. You are not granted permission to redistribute or modify the videos.

assignment-specific rules: these are the instructions for specific assignments (the exams or papers). A violation of one of these rules results in a full letter reduction in the grade for
the assignment. This applies even to rules for formatting and correct grammar. Such rules are not specified here, but separately on each assignment prompt.

7.1 Allowable exceptions to the rules:

Ordinarily, makeups and late submissions are not permitted. However, for the following cases, at my discretion, and subject to verification, they will be tolerated. These excuses apply only to making up an assignment or submitting it later than the stipulated time. Absences are recorded without regard for any excuse, and will still accumulate toward a course-grade penalty.

- Medical emergencies and serious illness
- A natural disaster (like a flood)
- Your kids had to stay home from school or daycare during the regular class time.
- A death in the family
- Your routine transportation broke down.
- An extra curricular event sponsored or sanctioned by the university
- An electronic service used by the course, such as Blackboard, Turnitin, or the like, is down. In this case I will always extend the deadline by twenty four hours past the original deadline, and you must resubmit within that timeframe. In the very unlikely event of a prolonged loss of service, I will extend the deadline as necessary in twenty four hour increments.

7.2 Typical excuses that are not accepted:

- Changing or unpredictable work hours: if you sign up for this course, you agree to schedule your business around the predetermined class schedule.
- Non emergent medical consultations and appointments
- Broken internet connection, broken or malfunctioning computer or other technology. You are responsible for having reliable technology, knowing how to use it, knowing how to troubleshoot it, and keeping backups.
- Unverifiable claims regarding Turnitin submissions. Keep your submission receipt in digital or paper form.

8 Revisions and Updates

Any aspect of this syllabus is subject to revision, with timely notice.
9 Course Outcomes

1. Students will be able to interpret with reasonable accuracy brief moral texts of a theological or philosophical nature.
2. Students will be able to explain and give a written account of the influence of nominalism on Western moral thought.
3. Students will express in written form and with reasonable accuracy, a fundamental feature or features of one the virtues, as understood in the Catholic tradition. (This could include defining the virtue, accurately describing its relationship to other virtues, or the like.)
4. Students will show evidence of their personal development of moral judgment by comparing, contrasting, and evaluating moral arguments in writing, and by being able to express accurately and with nuance, the difference that Catholic doctrine makes to the interpretation of a substantive moral issue.
5. Students will be able to recall and apply fundamental moral teachings, as expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in line with the basic topics identified in the catalog description.