THEO3349: Christ and the Moral Life
William Diem, STD
University of St. Thomas
Spring 2017

Sections:
A: TTh 11:00-12:15 Jerabeck 202
D: TTh 14:10-15:25 Jerabeck 201

Office: Hughes House 208
Email: diemw@stthom.edu
Office Hours:
Mondays 12:00-14:00
Tuesdays 12:15-14:00
Wednesdays 12:00-14:00
Thursdays 10:20-10:50, 12:15-14:00

Course Description and Objectives
The course is a study of fundamental Catholic teachings on the moral life, founded upon the truth that the power to live the moral life flows from Christ and the divinizing power of his grace, particularly in the sacraments. Course content includes the beatitudes, freedom, the morality of human acts and passions, moral conscience, the theological virtues, sin, social justice, and the Ten Commandments.

Students will express orally or in writing the difference that Catholic moral teaching makes to a given substantive moral topic or issue.
Students will compare and contrast specific moral arguments in writing.

Requirements and Dates
Essay 1 2% Feb. 18
Essay 2 2% Mar. 4
Essay 3 2% April 5
Term Paper 15% April 13
Test 1 10% Feb. 23
Test 2 25% March 30
Test 3 40% A: May 9 12:00-14:30; B: May 11 15:00-17:30
Meeting 2%
Class Participation 2%

Papers are due by the midnight that separates the due date from the following day. They are to be submitted via turnitin.
All tests are cumulative.
Without prejudice to subsequent, applicable policies, the general rule in cases in which a student seeks an exception to these dates is that promptness in communication is essential: If you foresee a conflict or anticipate needing extra time, e.g., to finish a paper, contact me as soon as possible bringing the situation to my attention.

**Essays**

There will be three essays responding to prompts concerning assigned readings. Each essay will be 500-900 words.

**Meeting**

Each student will--on his own initiative--meet with the professor once outside of the class, in order to discuss some question or difficulty, chosen and formulated by the student, related to the material of the course. It is expected that the student will have performed basic preparation for the discussion prior to the meeting (i.e., have a topic selected and formulated prior to the meeting). Typically the meeting should take place during scheduled office hours, although if a student’s schedule does not permit this, alternative times will be scheduled at mutual convenience. If a student foresees that he will not be able to fulfill this requirement during scheduled office hours during the semester, he should contact the professor no later than March 20th in order to begin the process of finding a suitable alternative time to meet.

To fulfill this requirement the meeting must not

A) take place within the three business days preceding a test, or after April 24th
B) be principally for the purpose of disputing a grade, preparing for a test, or clarifying information about the requirements of an assignment
C) Be solely concerned with simple matters of fact that should have been easily answered with little time or effort
D) Have as their only purpose to ask the professor to restate something already explicitly stated in class.

**Term Paper**

The term paper will be 1300-2300 words.
The topic and specific assignment will be announced not less than a month before the due date.

**Texts**

Required:


John Paul II. *Veritatis Splendor*.

Recommended:


Further readings will be provided by the instructor over the course of the semester.
Schedule of Topics
(Unless otherwise instructed, read one bullet point ahead of where we stopped the prior class.)

● Introduction: What is moral theology? Or ways of approaching ethics. (Mt. 19:16-29; Mt. 7:12; Mk 12:28-31; Jn 15:9-14; 1 Cor. 13:1-3; Gal. 5:1-15; Rom 13:8-10; Mt. 25:31-46)

● Freedom and Responsibility
  ○ Acts of Man and Human Acts (Fagothey, c. 5)
  ○ Notion of Responsibility (Fagothey, c. 6)

● Analyzing acts: (Fagothey, c. 9)
  ○ The *fontes moralitatis*. (John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*, nos 71-83, G. Grisez and R. Shaw, *Beyond the New Morality*, c. 6)
  ○ Principle of double effect

● Law (Fagothey, c. 10)
  ○ Eternal and Natural Laws (Fagothey, c.11, IaIIae Q.91, aa.1 & 2, Q. 94 aa. 2-6, *Veritatis Splendor*, nos. 35-53)
  ○ Moral Precepts of the Old Law (Deut. 5:4-21, IaIIae Q.100 aa. 1, 3, 5-9 and IaIIae Q.122, a. 1)
    ■ The notion of moral obligation (Fagothey, c. 12, Gen. 1:26-31, 9:1-7)
  ○ New Law and its relation to the Old: *Gratia naturam non tollit sed perfecit* (Aquinas, IaIIae Q.91 aa. 4-5, Q.107, aa.1-2, Mt. 5-7, Gal. 3, Rom. 3, 5:12-20, 13:8-10)
  ○ Human Law (Fagothey, c. 26, IaIIae Q.96, a.4)

● Conscience and Sin (Fagothey, c. 13; Rom. 14:10-23; *Veritatis Splendor*, nos. 31-34, 54-64)
  ○ Mortal and Venial Sins (*Veritatis Splendor*, nos. 65-70; Jam. 2:8-11; Gal. 5; IaIIae Q. 72, a. 5, Q. 87, aa.3-6)

● Habits, Virtues, and Vices (Fagothey, c. 14)
  ○ Prudence
  ○ Justice (Fagothey, c.15)
    ■ Rights and Duties
    ■ The Ten Commandments in particular
    ■ Fifth: Life (Fagothey, c.17-18)
      ● Murder
      ● Self-defence
      ● Abortion (John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, nos. 58-63)
      ● Capital Punishment (Avery Dulles, “Catholicism and Capital Punishment”)
      ● War (Fagothey, c.34-35)
      ● Euthanasia and Termination of Treatment (*Evangelium Vitae*, nos. 64-67)
      ● Suicide
    ■ Sixth and Ninth: Marriage, Adultery, Divorce (Fagothey, c.23, Mt. 19:3-9)
    ■ Seventh and Tenth: Theft and Restitution (Fagothey, c. 30)
      ● Wages (Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*, nos. 43-46)
    ■ Eighth: Lying, Deceiving, and Mental Reservation (Fagothey, c. 19)
      ○ Fortitude
      ○ Temperance
■ Food
■ Drink
■ Sex (Pius XI, *Casti Connubii*, nos. 53-56 & 59; Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*, nos 7-18; Janet Smith, “Natural Law and Sexual Ethics”)

**Policies**

**Computers and Electronics:** The use of electronics in class for any reason other than to take notes or consult reading is not permitted. Recording the class without explicit permission is not permitted.

**Attendance:** At the equivalent of two weeks of missed class two percentage points will be deducted from the final grade. For every absence thereafter, points will be deducted at a rate of three points per week.

A late arrival will be accounted 1/3rd of an absence. Arriving more than 1/5th of the way into class may, at the instructor’s discretion, be accounted 2/3rds or 3/3rds of an absence.

ABSENCES WILL NOT, AS A RULE, BE EXCUSED. If, however, a student has a documented and compelling reasons that he could not attend so many classes that a penalty would be assessed under the policy and the student has nearly perfect attendance aside from these absences, the student may petition for an exception to the policy.

**IF YOU ARRIVE LATE, IT IS INCUMBENT ON YOU TO CONFIRM YOU WERE PRESENT.**

NB: Absent or late students are responsible for everything that they missed in class. This includes not only the content of class notes and discussion, but also information, direction and guidance about upcoming assignments and readings as well as materials that may have been handed out (so if I return a test or give a handout at a class you missed it is your responsibility to come to me in a timely fashion to request it). Consequently, if you miss all or part of a class you should promptly confer with other students to get notes and learn what else you may have missed.

**Cancellation:** If the instructor is 20 minutes late, class is cancelled. If I can foresee that I will be late or have to miss class, I will attempt to communicate it to the class in a timely manner.

**Tests taken in the Testing Center**

Anyone who is taking a test in the testing center--for any reason--should notify me of the scheduled time at least either 48 hrs (if the time is on or before the time it was originally scheduled) or 24 hrs (if you are taking it after the time it was originally scheduled) in advance. The expressions ‘24 hrs’ and ‘48 hrs’ here exclude hours that fall on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays observed by the University.

Note that it will be considered a form of academic dishonesty to obtain from those who have taken the test before you or to give to those who are to take the test after you detailed information concerning what in particular is on the test.

**Missed evaluations:** It is expected that students will take all exams at the scheduled time. **IF A STUDENT FORESEES THAT HE WILL MISS A TEST FOR ANY REASON, IT IS INCUMBENT ON HIM TO NOTIFY THE PROFESSOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

A student who wishes to take the test at an alternate time should first contact the professor to
request permission to do so—again, well in advance of the scheduled date if possible. If permission is
granted the student should then schedule a time at the testing center. Typically a test should be taken on or
before the day the test was originally schedule. If this is not possible it should be scheduled for the
following day. Only if none of the prior options are possible should it be scheduled on the second day after
the originally scheduled time for the test. Make-up dates three or more days after the original test date are
not acceptable. Once a time has been scheduled, the student should notify the professor by email (giving at
least 24 or 48 hrs notice per the preceding policy on “tests taken in the testing center”).

If there is an unforeseeable, last-minute emergency that both prevents you from taking the exam
and prevents you from scheduling in advance an alternate time to take the exam, note the following: First,
time is of the essence both in contacting the professor and in making up the test—delay on either of these
points may result in your not being allowed to make up the test. Second, no make-up test that was arranged
on or after the originally scheduled day of the exam will be graded or factored into the course grade
without evidence (e.g., a doctor’s note) establishing that the student (a) could not reasonably have taken the
test at its originally scheduled time, and (b) that the student could not reasonably have foreseen (a).

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTION EXPLICITLY COULD RESULT IN A
GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE EXAM.

Note also that make-up exams may be more difficult than the normal exams.

Papers

It is expected that papers will conform to norms of English grammar, spelling, mechanics, and
idiom. IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU HAVE SOMEONE PROOFREAD YOUR
WORK. Further, papers are to conform to the norms set forth in Turabian. Citations should be presented
in footnotes (what Turabian terms “notes-bibliography style”).

Papers are to be typeset entirely in a single, 12pt serif font. The body of the paper is to be double
spaced, excepting block quotations and heading.

Papers are to have the student's last name and the page number on the upper right corner of all
pages except the first.

Papers that are fewer than 1000 words and that have fewer than 3 cited works may omit a
bibliography.

All papers less than 1000 words should have, in lieu of a title page, on the first page the following
header, single spaced, on the top left corner:

Author's Name
Class number and name (E.g., THEO3349: Christ and the Moral Life)
Professor’s name
Date Submitted

Below this, after skipping a line, the title of the paper should be produced, singles spaced, centered,
and in all capitals.

Below this, again skipping a line, the text of the paper should begin.

Well known and widely available works that have standard divisions of the text (E.g., the Bible, the
Summa Theologica, the dialogues of Plato) can be cited without full bibliographical information, and should
be cited by the standard division.

Papers are to be submitted via turnitin. When submitting papers, BE SURE TO RECORD THE
CONFIRMATION NUMBER.
Papers Submitted Late
Late submissions will receive a deduction according to the following schedule:

- -2%--Within 1hr. of the deadline
- -5%--Within 12hrs. of the deadline
- -10%--Within 24hrs of the deadline
- -15%--Within 36hrs of the deadline
- -25%--Within 48hrs of the deadline
- Thereafter the paper will not be accepted for credit.

Academic Dishonesty
Students should be acquainted with the University's "Policy on Academic Dishonesty" found in the Undergraduate Catalog. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
2. Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
3. Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected;
4. Deceiving or misrepresenting to the professor or an agent of the school in order to obtain special treatment with respect to a graded assignment or requirement of the course.
5. Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.

The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the instructor, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of “F” for the course.

Conduct during tests: For the sake of academic integrity, the following are not permitted during a test:

- Leaving the room during a test. Use the restroom prior to accepting the test or after turning it in.
- Having any written material (other than the test itself) visible. Notes, study guides, textbooks, and electronics (including cell phones) must remain out of sight for the duration of the test.
- Talking. You may speak only to the proctor of the test. Don’t whisper to your neighbor if your pen goes dry.
- Wandering eyes. Keep your eyes clearly on your own paper. Do not cover your eyes during a test.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism can be succinctly defined as presenting another person’s words, ideas, or work as though they were your own. It is a serious academic infringement. It is your responsibility as an author to be sure that you understand what constitutes plagiarism. If you are unsure whether your use of a source could be considered plagiarism you should consult with the instructor prior to submitting your paper.
Some common examples of plagiarisms:

- Quoting verbatim from a source without indicating that the text is a quotation (e.g., not including quotation marks or indenting it as a block quotation), and crediting the source.

- Paraphrasing a source without indicating that you are paraphrasing a particular source (e.g., without including something like, ‘According to MacIntyre, . . .’ or ‘Hume thinks that . . .’).

- Incorporating text from a source into your work, and changing a few words, or dropping a clause. This is like paraphrasing, and—like paraphrasing—it needs to be clear where your thought stops and another person’s starts. Starting with another person’s text and then altering that text is not a legitimate process in academic writing. Either quote the author or write your own prose.

- Using the results of someone’s research in your writing without crediting the source. Results of someone’s research can include things like someone’s data, arguments, theses, or conclusions: anything that someone else produced through work or creativity. This does not include things that are not original such as well-known data or commonplace ideas. If you can find it in a general reference work (like an encyclopedia) without attribution, or if several other reputable sources produce the same material without attribution, then it is safe to assume that it is common. Note, however, that although an idea or data may be common the expression or organization may still be original. If you aren’t sure whether something is original or common, assume it is original.

Having someone else write part or all of your paper will, in this class, be considered academic dishonesty, subject to the same consequences as plagiarism.

Note that using another student’s detailed drafts, outlines, or notes for a paper will generally constitute academic dishonesty.

Attending other sections: I generally have no problem with people occasionally sitting in on another section than they are enrolled in. However,

- It is your responsibility to make sure that I know you were present and mark you as such.

- The sections may not be at the same place in the material, hence you will be responsible for getting the notes from another student for any material that you might miss.

- This policy does not apply to tests: Unless you have some particular reason for needing to take the test at an alternate time, and have requested and received permission well in advance from the instructor, you will not be allowed to take the test with another section.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who believes that he may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course—as outlined in the syllabus—due to presence of a disability, should contact the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (C&DS). The following statement was prepared by the C&DS:
Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. Their offices can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.

If you have been granted an accommodation allowing you to take tests in the testing center, you should schedule a time to take the test directly with the testing center (on the day of the test, unless I have specifically approved another time). You should then forward the time and date that you have scheduled to take the test to me at least 48 hrs in advance of that time.

If you have an academic accommodation allowing you to record lectures, these recording are for your exclusive use; you are not permitted to share them.

Grade Scale

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Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus may be changed by the instructor as necessary. Substantive changes to the syllabus will be appropriately communicated to the class.