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 as intelligible, coherent, and consequential.

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 2-4 PM; Th 1-4 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. The substance of the course is presented to you as video lectures available through Blackboard. It is imperative that you take responsibility for your own learning by keeping up with the readings and the video lectures. In-person group meetings are on Monday. For any given week, follow the following procedure:

- attend the Monday lecture/discussion and take careful notes.
- read the assigned readings for the week (as specified on this syllabus)
- engage with the assigned video lectures for the week and take careful notes on them
- submit your notes on the video lectures in the form of an outline to turnitin.com
- (only on weeks in which a précis is due) write and submit the précis via turnitin, following the assignment instructions found in Blackboard
- (only if you want to resubmit a failed précis) meet with the professor in person or online to discuss the original précis, and then write and submit the revision to turnitin.com
- (on your own schedule) make progress toward answering the short answer exam questions posted for approximately each week

The materials available to you in Blackboard include study guides for difficult readings, digital “whiteboards” that offer you diagrams or key explanations of definitions, exam questions for you to prepare, and sometimes other handouts.

Your performance is evaluated principally through a paper, four précis, an oral midterm, and a written final examination. The précis are short summaries of 600-800 words, on specific readings,
graded pass/fail. The readings assigned for summarization are chosen to integrate with other assignments and to prepare you for the longer paper. The first three précis may be revised and resubmitted up to two weeks after their respective due dates. The oral midterm and the written final are based on the exam questions distributed to you throughout the semester. You are encouraged to work on written answers to these on your own, and to meet with the professor for guidance answering them. Everyone is required to submit weekly note outlines according to the schedule on the syllabus. I grade a random selection of these outlines, on a pass/fail basis. You never know whether your particular outline will be graded, but you should always submit it to turnitin. More than five failing grades on the outlines result in a full-letter grade reduction for the course as a whole. Passing grades on the outlines favorably influence the final determination of your course grade.

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, and the criteria for various types of assignments are published in Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>paper &amp; exams</th>
<th>précis</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>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B;B;C (at least two B’s and one C, etc.)</td>
<td>pass 1</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C;D;D</td>
<td></td>
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</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.
Instructions for the précis and paper are available in the “writing assignments” section of Blackboard. In addition to the matters discussed above, other aspects of course business will be conducted electronically (links below and also in Blackboard):

- **scheduling:** click here for the Bookedin online service;
- **paper submission:** click here for Turnitin ID 14499095; password: evagri_17s
- **grades:** via turnitin or in-person—written assignments are returned in person;
- **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. You are also expected to work steadily at answering the exam questions each week in a written form. Work on all written assignments (including exam questions, précis, the paper, or note outlines) should be your own, without help or collaboration from other students, but you may schedule appointments (singly or in small groups) with me to discuss your answers, and you may ask the tutor in the Tutorial Services Center for assistance on these and all other assignments in the course.

### 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 on this syllabus. Readings marked "(BB)" are found in Blackboard. Otherwise, they come from a required text.

#### Week 1 (1/23-1/29)

**class:** Introduction to the Problem of Choice

**readings, videos:**

1. quotations from the Protagoras (BB)
2. video lectures on the Protagoras (BB)
3. Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. I (BB)
4. video lectures on Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. I (BB)
5. Athanasius: Life of Antony, pp. 29-64
6. note outline (turnitin) due 1/27 by 11:59 PM
7. first précis on Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. I (turnitin) due 1/29 by 11:59 PM

Week 2 (1/30-2/5)

class: Discussion on the Life of Antony

readings, videos:
1. Athanasius, Life of Antony, pp. 64-99
2. Pinckaers, pp. 1-3
3. Athanasius: On the Incarnation, pp. 53-73
4. video lectures on Athanasius On the Incarnation
5. Catechism, §1691-1775
6. note outline (turnitin) due 2/3 by 11:59 PM

Week 3 (2/6-2/12)

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

readings, videos:
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 St. Thomas Aquinas, part I (BB)
5. selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, part II (BB)
6. Pinckaers video lectures, parts 1-5
7. note outline (turnitin) due 2/10 by 11:59 PM
8. second précis on selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, part I (turnitin) due 2/12 by 11:59 PM
Week 4 (2/13-2/19)

**class:** Clarifying Pinckaers’ Approach and Recent Moral Theology

**readings, videos:**
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. Catechism §1176-1802
6. note outline (turnitin) due 2/17 by 11:59 PM

Week 5 (2/20-2/26)

**class:** Summation on Proportionalism and the Definition of the Good

**readings, videos:**
1. selections from Veritatis Splendor (BB)
2. note outline (turnitin) due 2/24 by 11:59 PM

Week 6 (2/27-3/5)

**class:** Introduction to the Virtues and Review on Moral Goodness

**readings, videos:**
1. Human Acts and Freedom of choice (BB)
2. Catechism, §1803-1876
3. Cessario on the virtues (BB)
4. third précis on Cessario on the virtues (turnitin) due 3/5 by 11:59 PM
5. study for your midterm: no note outline due this week!
Week 7 (3/6-3/12)
class: Midterm Week (no regular Monday meeting)

readings, videos:
1. schedule an in-person oral midterm between 3/6 and 3/10
2. Pinckaers, pp. 65-81
3. video lectures on Pinckaers on Freedom and Happiness
4. no note outline due this week!

Week 9 (3/20-3/26)
class: Pinckaers’ Theoretical Approach

readings, videos:
1. video lectures on freedom and truth
2. selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, part III (BB)
3. video lectures on justice and personhood
4. note outline (turnitin) due 3/24 by 11:59 PM

Week 10 (3/27-4/2)
class: Summation on Freedom and Happiness

readings, videos:
1. Pinckaers, pp. 81-111
2. Pieper, Happiness and Contemplation (BB)
3. Catechism, §1949-2051
4. note outline (turnitin) due 3/31 by 11:59 PM

Week 11 (4/3-4/9)
class: Discussion on Happiness and Contemplation
**readings, videos:**

1. selections from Spidlik’s Spirituality (BB)  
2. video lectures on Spidlik  
3. selection from Torrell (BB)  
4. Catechism, §2258-2330  
5. note outline (turnitin) due 4/7 by 11:59 PM

**Week 12 (4/10-4/16)**

**class:** The Human Good in Community

**readings, videos:**

1. Screwtape Letters, chapters 1-9 and 18-27  
2. video lectures on the Screwtape Letters  
4. note outline (turnitin) due 4/12 by 11:59 PM **note earlier date!**  
5. fourth précis on Screwtape Letters, chapters 1-9 and 18-27 (turnitin) due 4/19 by 11:59 PM **note earlier date!**

**Week 13 (4/17-4/23)**

**class:** Introduction to Love

**readings, videos:**

1. selections from St. Isaac the Syrian (BB)  
2. Pieper, Faith Hope Love, pp. 207-281  
3. Pieper, selections on chastity (BB)  
4. Catechism, §2331-2400  
5. no note outline due this week!  
6. comparison/contrast paper (turnitin) due 4/23 by 11:59 PM
Week 14 (4/24-4/30)

**class:** Summation on Pieper on Love

**readings, videos:**

1. Pieper, Faith Hope Love, pp. 91-138
2. Catechism, §2464-2513
3. no note outline due this week!

Week 15 (5/1-5/5)

**class:** Summation on Hope

**readings, videos:**

1. Ratzinger, selection on truth and tolerance (BB)
2. no note outline due this week!

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 (with some exceptions) 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.:** If you miss or are more than five minutes late for more than six assigned Monday sessions, you fail the course. For this purpose, evident failure to prepare for class is regarded as an absence. It is the student’s responsibility to track his or her own absences or latenesses.

**preparation for discussions:** You are expected to come to classes with all prior material prepared.

**general rules on writing assignments:** Writing assignments must conform to assignment expectations in all particulars, including grammatical correctness, proper length,
Chicago citation style (endnote-bibliography, with use of Latin abbreviations in endnotes when the style guide calls for it). All writing assignments should follow the example set by the Chicago Style paper available on the library website. (A link to this example is provided in Blackboard.) Note, in particular, that this includes a separate cover sheet for all writing assignments, including précis and note outlines. Your student ID number should appear on the cover sheet beneath your name. 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. You must save a copy of your turnitin submission receipt each time you submit a written assignment. No exceptions will be tolerated. Papers not submitted to the correct assignment may not be accepted. It is the student’s responsibility to submit papers to the correct assignment.

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 business 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. You are expected to know how to use whatever computer software is necessary for you to comply with assignment instructions. If you need specific help with technology, you are encouraged to consult your professor.

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. As a general rule, I only respond to emails during normal business hours. If you email me on the weekend, do not expect a response until Monday.

**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 initial 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. Any makeup of any assignment automatically loses one letter grade. Makeups of pass/fail assignments (précis and note outlines) are not permitted, but if you do miss submission of one of the first three précis, you can submit it as a revision, provided you meet with me to discuss your draft beforehand, as the policy for revisions stipulates.
• 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. In this case, no student will be penalized for late submission, provided the assignment is submitted within the deadline extension period.

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.
• Traffic. Yes, it’s bad. It’s always bad. Leave earlier.

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.