

FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLIC MORALITY

Fall, 2011

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Course Description

This course explores the foundations of Catholic morality and suggests methods by which moral decisions are made. It investigates such areas as the meaning of morality, the basic principles of sound moral judgments, the meaning of conscience, the factors that affect the kinds of moral judgments that people make, the importance of laws (including Church laws), the importance of Jesus Christ as a guide for moral living, and clarification of the Church's teaching on specific moral questions as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Students are specifically concerned with discovering the way the Catholic Church thinks and reasons about foundational issues in morality.

Specific Topics

1. Epistemology
2. The Experience of God in Christian Life
3. A Call to Catholic Living
4. The person of Jesus as the starting point of Catholic morality
5. The Church as God given gift that assists people in their moral lives
6. Conscience
7. Sin and Morality
8. Virtue and the development of the Moral Life
9. Moral Decision Making: Object chosen, intentionality; and circumstances.

Grading Policy			
100-97	A+	79-77	C+
96-94	A	76-74	C
93-90	A-	73-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-84	B	66-64	D
83-80	B-	63-60	D-
Below 60 - F			

Course Assignments	
Tests	50%
Assignments	10%
Major Paper	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Text and Readings

Stouzenberger, Joseph: Morality: A Response to God's Love. 2005, Harcourt Religion

Publishers. [This book is in conformity with the USCCB ad hoc committee on religious education texts.]

Take care of the books and protect them or you will be billed for a new book.

Assigned work on **MOODLE***

Course Expectations

1. Be on time for class. Be in your seat and ready to go when the buzzer goes off.
2. Have a notebook, a textbook and a bible with you for all class meetings. **You are to take notes on the class materials.**
3. When you take notes do so—trying to get the jist of what I am talking about. Do not try to take down every word. Compare your notes with others in the class or your study group and fill out the notes for a more complete picture. Read the text and put it with your notes.
4. On days when exams are scheduled, you will only need loose-leaf and pens/ pencils. Any and all other materials are left on test days in the front of the class.
5. **A Note About Study Groups**:** A week or two into the semester, each student chooses to be a part of a study group. The purpose of this group is manifold.
 - a. The Study group is there to help members of the class combine their notes into a synthesis making it useful in preparing for tests.
 - b. Assignments are sometimes given to the study group and evaluation (grade) is dependent upon the members of the group working together.
 - c. If someone is absent, the members of the study group are responsible for seeing to it that the absent person has notes and assignments.
6. **Read the textbook and study the notes every night for about ten to twenty minutes.**
7. Complete the assigned written work on time and in a manner that is neat and complete. Most of the assigned work is done on MOODLE. For writing exercises spelling and grammar errors are to be avoided. Marks are deducted for grammar, poor reasoning, and incomplete assignments.
8. **Assignments have due date; Make sure they are on time.**
9. The student is responsible for completing work and notes missed during an absence. (This is not the responsibility of the teacher.)
10. Students are expected to be present and ready to take exams on the assigned days. Make up exams are taken after school and must be completed within five school days after one returns to school.
11. If you act like an adult, you will be treated like an adult. Childish and immature behavior is not tolerated. Detentions are given for students who cannot control themselves in class or who continuously must talk without permission.
12. In accord with school policy, you must be in dress code, conduct yourself with proper and courteous behavior at all times. No food or gum is permitted (this includes bottles of water—Hydration issues need to be addressed elsewhere not in this classroom. And there are no exceptions).
13. This class is about foundations of a Catholic morality- please do not entertain other subject matter in my classroom. (In other words, I find it a personal insult if you are working on other material in my class and I react appropriately.)
14. Detentions are done with me when I request. Clear your schedule to do the detention. Detentions usually consist of sitting and contemplating your life in silence.

15. Remember these words of wisdom :

16. "Most of what I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten... These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life—Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday some. Take a nap every afternoon [not in this class]. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we. And remember the Dick and Jane books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK" Excerpted from R. Fulghum, All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten, pp. 4-5

17. On all papers turned in as assignments, written or typed, the following title is to be in the upper left hand corner.

18. Your Name Foundations / Period ____ Fr. Strasz, s.m. Date

* Moodle is a distance learning program which is utilized in the course Foundations of a Catholic Morality with Fr. Strasz as instructor. Students should frequently check the Moodle homepage as assignments and readings are listed on the front page. The vast majority of assignments are turned in on Moodle.

** Study Groups can be a great help throughout ones academic career especially in college. The different members of the group must be responsible for the work of the course and everyone has to contribute if they are to be a success.