Class: STM 100 Tuesdays 6:30 PM–9:00 PM
Office Hours in STM #212: Tuesdays 1:30–3:30 PM; Thursdays 3:15–5:00 PM, OR EASILY by appointment at other times. Please contact the Service Center at 617-552-6501 to sign up for a slot on these days; OR e-mail the professor at bretzke@bc.edu for other times outside of these slots. Please do not contact the professor directly for an appointment during the regularly scheduled Office Hours, as the Service Center keeps this schedule and this will only delay getting an appointment.

Rev. Bretzke’s e-mail: bretzke@bc.edu
Office phone: 617-552-6514

Course Description and Requirements

This Graduate Level 1 course will consider several models and contextual issues of fundamental Christian ethics in various parts of the world in order to map how cultures and their respective ethoses intersect in the construction of ethical paradigms which in turn can both foster and hinder cross-cultural respect and collaboration. Two historical novels set respectively in Africa (Achebe) and Asia (Endo) will be read, along with works on cultural anthropology (Douglas), fundamental moral theology (Bretzke), a methodological reflection on the American ethical cultural tradition (Betsworth) and a work on theological inculturation in the African context (Orobator). Additionally each student will be asked to read two (2) additional books: one (1) in the field of theological and/or cultural anthropology AND also one (1) additional book for discussion in the oral final exam. See the “Recommended Readings” section below for the listing of these possibilities. Another book may be substituted for either (or both) of these assignments with the prior permission of the professor.

All written assignments are described in detail on the relevant Assignment folder on Canvas but are briefly summarized here: Students will be asked to do a bi-weekly private Journal reflection shared just with the instructor (9 total for the semester); a 3-5 page reflection paper on their own cultural ethos; a field visit either to an art museum to be used in a report and cross-cultural reflection on cultural values are represented in art or a field visit and participation in two different confessional worship services; a fifteen minute individual oral final exam; and a final small group project which each student with between 1-3 other students will do a comparative analysis of either an approach to fundamental ethics or a concrete ethical issue from her or his native region with an approach from a different cultural model used by other author(s) or co-presenter students. These final projects will either be presented in the last weeks of the course OR posted in an online dossier (e.g. with Mediakron) onto Canvas. Examples of each of these assignments will be presented in the first three weeks of the semester. Final project with accompanying reflection is due December 12th.

An Important Note on the Use of Canvas for the Course:
Since all course communication, announcements, e-mail, electronic documents, assignments, etc. will be handled using Canvas it is imperative that each student configure their e-mail address so that Canvas-generated e-mails are automatically forwarded to whatever e-mail account is actually used. Since announcements and course updates will be posted on the “Course Content” page (which will be the first page seen when logging onto the Canvas course web-page) it is very important that students consult this page at least once before each course meeting. If you encounter technological issues in using Canvas please contact either the IT Help Desk or the Canvas support staff at cms@bc.edu; please do not contact the instructor to resolve technical issues as this will likely only delay solution of the problem. Online tutorials and support services on the use of Canvas can be found at http://www.bc.edu/offices/cte/tools/canvas.html [link verified January 2, 2016]. Students wishing to contact the Professor directly may do this through Canvas or via e-mail sent to bretzke@bc.edu.

**Learning Outcomes for Cross-Cultural Christian Ethics: By the end of the Course the Student will be able to**

- Describe Catholic fundamental moral theology and articulate a general methodology and specific approaches to address particular core concepts such as The Moral Person and Moral Community; Conscience, Moral Norms and the Natural Law, Grace, Moral Failure, Sin and Reconciliation.

- Define, describe and/or apply in a theological context of Christian ethics the basic concepts of cultural anthropology such as culture, acculturation, enculturation, ethos, ethnocentrism, socialization, purity, taboo, globalization, and related concepts.

- Articulate these core concepts in terms of models and paradigms in order to construct a model of a theological framework of inculturation & ethics that is adaptable to differing cultural contexts.

- Articulate different ethical models and approaches found geographical cultural contexts such as Asia, the Americas, and Africa in which Christian ethics engages in the processes of inculturation.

- Describe ways in which culture and cultural contexts intersect with core theological concepts such as Christology, Evangelization, Missiology and Ecclesiology.

- Successfully work with a small group of diverse students in outlining, constructing, and presenting a project that is centered on a particular ethical theme or issue of contemporary relevance in the area of cross-cultural ethics.

**REQUIRED BOOKS to be read by all:**


**Recommended Book Readings for Theological/Cultural Anthropology**

**Assignment: Choose ONE (1)**

*N.B.* With the professor’s **prior** permission another work, not listed below, might be substituted for this assignment.


**Recommended Book Readings for Final Exam: Choose ONE (1)**

Each student must choose ONE [1] of these books to read and do an oral report on at the time of the oral final exam). The book chosen may also be done in connection with the small group project and will be discussed with other students who choose the same book.


**REQUIRED ARTICLES to be read by all (and available electronically):**


Uwineza, a Rwandan Jesuit and doctoral student in theology at Boston College, reflects on the Christian response to that tragedy of genocide in light of the Christian virtue of hope and the mandate of forgiveness.

NB: Additional Regional Bibliography available from the Professor. Additional reading of an article or chapter will be expected of each student during the last part of the course as preparation for each week's student small group presentation(s).

Other Recommended Readings and/or other media:


Diocese of Phoenix’s video “A Call to Battle: Society’s Crisis in Masculinity” Available on Canvas and on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mDzNm7cylw

Donald Trump Campaign Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPRfP_TEQ-g


Boston College and/or School of Theology & Ministry Academic Policies

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is expected at all classes. If an absence is foreseen please contact the professor before the class to be missed. If an absence is unforeseen (e.g., illness or emergency) please contact the professor as soon as possible after the missed class. Absences (whether foreseen or unforeseen) may result in lowering of the final grade. In accord with the 2015-16 STM-wide policy an absence rate of 25% or more will result in failure of the course.

For Students with Disabilities:
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Kathy Duggan (Kathleen.duggan@bc.edu) Associate Director, Academic Support Services, the Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities and ADHD) or Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**
Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one’s own. Penalties at Boston College range from a grade penalty to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another’s words or ideas must be fully cited. If in the original wording, quotation marks or blocked, indented quotations must be used. For more information regarding plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, please consult the STM website at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/stmserv/acadpol.html.

The **STM Writing Companions Corner** (WCC) offers students one-on-one help with writing research papers, exegeses, reflection papers, and other assignments frequently given by STM faculty. Please watch STM News for more information on signing up for an appointment in the WCC.

**Inclusive Language Policy:**
Language is not fixed or static, but is constantly evolving and changing as society’s attitudes and practices change. Be aware of the development of new forms of expression that endeavor to describe persons in non-discriminatory ways that are appropriate, respectful and just. In accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style and generally accepted contemporary canons of scholarship, the expectation is to use bias neutral language in academic writing. In addition to gender inclusive language, conscientious effort should be made to use appropriate language with reference to race, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, social status, etc.

**STM School-Wide Grading Policy (adopted by the Faculty in the Fall 2012):** based on the Academic Policies of Boston College for Graduate Courses. All grading in this class is reflective of these descriptions.

**A** Work is exceptional in every respect. There is an active and sophisticated engagement with all aspect of the course, demonstrated through careful analysis or creative treatment of the ideas covered. Both class participation and written work indicate outstanding mastery of content, originality of thought clearly expressed, and clarity in connecting course concepts with ministerial and theological interests.

**A-** Work is superior and above the average graduate level expectations. This involves mastery of the course content, recognition of the “big picture” within which course material is situated, and capacity to make cogent links with one’s ministerial and theological position. This level is reflected in the ability to express one’s thoughts effectively in writing and to contribute significantly to class conversation.
B+ Work is more than satisfactory at the graduate level. This involves mastery of the course content and the ability to draw connections across course topics and with appropriate theological and ministerial topics. Contribution to class conversation gives evidence of both active listening and thoughtful participation. Written work is clear, focused and well organized.

B Work is clearly satisfactory at the graduate level. There is consistent engagement with, and a basic mastery of, the course material with a good command of the various topics.

B- Work is barely acceptable at the graduate level. This reflects a basic command of the course material, an adequate articulation of the connections across content areas, and a basic recognition of the implications for pastoral work.

C Work is marginally acceptable at the graduate level. This is a basic mastery of most of the course materials but not all. It represents that you have slipped below an acceptable level of work in one or two areas.

F Work is unsatisfactory and fails to meet the requirements of the course.

A note on Course Grading:

N.b. do NOT try to use the grades recorded in Canvas to compute your final grade.

Instead the final grade is based on these relative weights and assessed according to the general criteria outlined immediately above.

20% Class participation, including attendance and active participation
10% Journal Reflections
10% Cultural Ethos Reflection Paper
15% Museum or Church Visit Field Project
15% Small Group Project & Presentation
10% Individual Reflection on Small Group Project
20% Oral Final Exam

TMCE 7011 CROSS-CULTURAL CHRISTIAN ETHICS
2016 Course Readings Schedule

Refer to the Course Readings for complete page numbers and bibliographical information on these assigned readings.

FIRST WEEK: (August 30) Introduction to Cross-Cultural Ethics (no required reading before the first class, but please do the “Gangnam Style Exercise” e-mailed to you)

• Overview of Course Syllabus, Readings, and Learning Outcomes
• Personal Introductions
• Gangnam video Introductory Exercise [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bZkp7q19f0]

**Recommended reading:**

**SECOND WEEK: (September 6): Theological Framework of Inculturation & Ethics**

- Terminology Overview from Cultural Anthropology & Theology of Inculturation
- Introductory Multi-Media Power Point Presentation Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- Setting up small groups for reading/discussion for the following class
- Begin reading the chosen book in theological or cultural anthropology


McGowan, Jo. “Hidden Behind Words”

**Watch & Review** the Power Point Presentations: Introduction to Moral Theology Parts 1 & 2 on Canvas

Part One of Introduction to Moral Methodology: [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d1251b58-f539-4e4d-a1bc-d4b9c5ea2bb2](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d1251b58-f539-4e4d-a1bc-d4b9c5ea2bb2)

Part Two of Introduction to Moral Methodology: [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6e0a87e7-03ad-471b-b11b-2a15a195cb74](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6e0a87e7-03ad-471b-b11b-2a15a195cb74)

**Complete & Bring to Class the Reflection Exercise on Using Contrasting Biblical Passages on a Moral Issue** based on the 5 Source Content Questions discussed in Chapter 1 of *Morally Complex World* as well as in the Introduction to Moral Methodology Power Point presentations. The file for the Exercise is found on *Canvas* in the Week 2 Assignments.

**Optional Lecture Thursday September 8th:** Archbishop José Gomez (Los Angeles) 2016 C-21 Episcopal Visitor: “Immigration, National Identity and Catholic Conscience” 6 PM in the Heights Room of Corcoran Commons
THIRD WEEK: (September 13): Cultural Anthropology

- **Review** Introductory Power Point Presentations on Moral Methodology
- **View** Core Concepts in Cross-Cultural Perspectives Power Point Presentation found on Canvas and at https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3ad8198b-4474-45e6-8250-dbd4da069a1d
- Small group preparation, followed by guided discussion.
- Cross-cultural ethical case study analysis and discussion
- **Continue** reading the chosen book in theological or cultural anthropology


Private Journal #1 entry due by class-time.

**Recommended Reading**:


FOURTH WEEK: (September 20): Ethics in the United States I

Betsworth, Chapters 1-3 in *Social Ethics: An Examination of American Moral Traditions*, pp. 11-80.


**Recommended viewing**

(to accompany the Natural Law chapter) Natural Law and Intrinsic Evil available as one file online without narration) https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/NaturalLawAndIntrinsicEvil.ppsx

OR
Part One: Natural Law & Intrinsic Evil Power Point Presentation (with narration): https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=4393ebca-ce6d-4a6a-b345-56753b4464ea

Part Two: Natural Law & Intrinsic Evil Power Point Presentation (with narration): https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=2c976c4b-6cad-46b0-b4ae-f72ded89a433


Private Journal entry #2 due by class-time.

**Recommended Reading & Viewing** as cultural exemplars of certain “fundamental values & root paradigms” in the American ethos


**View** Donald Trump’s Campaign Video based on his “Make America Great Again” theme: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPRfP_TEQ-g

**FIFTH WEEK**: (September 27): Ethics in the United States II

Betsworth, Chapters 4-6 in Social Ethics: An Examination of American Moral Traditions, pp. 81-187.


Private Journal entry #3 due by class-time.

Upload to either the Assignments folder OR the Discussion Board OR bring to class an exemplar of your culture’s expression of a Love Symbol.

**Recommended:**
View and reflect on the cultural “fundamental values & root paradigms” discernible in the Diocese of Phoenix’s video “A Call to Battle: Society’s Crisis in Masculinity” Available on Canvas and on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mDzNm7cylw

**Decoding 1 Corinthians 6:9**
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/Decoding1Corinthians6.ppsx
**SIXTH WEEK:** (October 4): *Conscience and Cultural Anthropology*


*Finish* reading the chosen book in theological or cultural anthropology

**Optional Viewing:**

*Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience Power Point*  
[https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTheologyOfConscience.ppsx](https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTheologyOfConscience.ppsx)

*Optional viewing to accompany Chapter 4:*

*Part 1: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration):*  
[https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16eda080-4028-4e18-b92d-d0b30e49b400](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16eda080-4028-4e18-b92d-d0b30e49b400)

*Part 2: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration):*  
[https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b70e7cef-6029-4127-8d23-10667cc2cf03](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b70e7cef-6029-4127-8d23-10667cc2cf03)

*Part 3: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration):*  
[https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c)

*Part 4: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration):*  
[https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=18e0a150-ef69-40dc-922e-f11e60af7716](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=18e0a150-ef69-40dc-922e-f11e60af7716)

**SEVENTH WEEK:** (October 11): *Ethics in Asia, Missiology, Christology & Ecclesiology I*

Endo, Shusaku. *Silence* (whole book, *including* the Appendix)

**3-5 page paper due on personal cultural ethos reflection sources due by class-time; these might be shared in small group discussions if the individual student is willing.**

**EIGHTH WEEK:** (October 18) *Missiology, Christology & Ecclesiology*

**Viewing and Discussion of 1986 “Mission”**

Finalization of small groups for the purposes of the project presentation and initial précis of the group’s proposed presentation is to be submitted by Tuesday October 24th to the professor.

**Museum of Church Field Visit Cross-Cultural Project due by Class-Time on October 18th**

*No Journal Entry this week due to Cross-Cultural Project assignment due*
**NINTH WEEK:** (October 25): Theological Inculturation in the African Context I

**Read:** Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart* (whole book)

Private *Journal* entry #4 due by class-time.

**TENTH WEEK:** (November 1): Theological Inculturation in the African Context II


Orobator, Agbonkhianmeghe E., S.J. *Theology Brewed In an African Pot*, (whole book)

Private *Journal* entry #5 due by normal class-time on November 1st.

**ELEVENTH WEEK:** (November 8): Cultural Notions of Sin, Forgiveness & Moral Failure


Uwineza, a Rwandan Jesuit and doctoral student in theology at Boston College, reflects on the Christian response to that tragedy of genocide in light of the Christian virtue of hope and the mandate of forgiveness.

*View outside of class time* “Hope for Healing: Ambassadors of Reconciliation in Confronting Sin and Moral Failure.” Boston College School of Theology & Ministry (17 March 2011), Presentation available online at http://www.bc.edu/schools/stm/edevnts/CampusEvents/PastLectures/2011/ambassadors-sin.html (N.B. this is the updated link and "works" as of October 10, 2016).

In-class viewing selections of Helen Whitney’s PBS 2011 Documentary “Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate” http://www.helenwhitney.com/

*Journal* entry #6 due by class time.

*Recommended reading:*

**TWELFTH THROUGH FOURTEENTH WEEKS:** November 15, 22, 29

Small Group Presentations. Each group presentation will give a brief reading or similar preparatory exercise to be done in advance of the presentation by the rest of the class (so count on some extra short readings these last three weeks which are not listed in the Course Syllabus).

Private *Journal* entry due by class-time each week of November 15 and 22 (and if appropriate please comment on the week’s Small Group presentation).

**FIFTEENTH WEEK:** (December 6) **Summary & Evaluation**

Final Journal Entry due by class time.

*Individual Oral Exams Scheduled Week of December 6-13*: The oral exam will include (but not be limited to) discussion of the “Recommended Reading” book chosen by the individual student (Hogan, Kristof/Wudunn, Magesa, Moser/Leers, Press, Schreiter, or Song). Final Projects due on Monday December 12th