Roman Catholic Fundamental Moral Theology
Boston College School of Theology & Ministry TMCE 8002-01(Level 2)
James T. Bretzke, S.J. S.T.D.
Professor of Moral Theology
Last Update: August 12, 2016

Fall Semester 2016
Class Tuesdays: 12:00—2:50 PM STM 135
Office Hours (see sign up sheet at Service Center or call 552-6501)
Tuesdays 3:15—4:45 PM; & Thursdays 3:15—4:45PM, or EASILY by other appointment
(Other times by individual appointment: e-mail or phone me for a special time)
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Course Description

This course treats Roman Catholic fundamental moral theology, focusing on both traditional and contemporary understandings of principal themes such as: The Nature and History, as well as a Methodological Model for Approaching Fundamental Moral Theology; The Moral Person and Moral Community; Conscience, Moral Norms and the Natural Law; Evaluations of Moral Acts; Sin (personal and social), Conversion and Reconciliation; Roles of Church Teaching (Magisterium) & Tradition in selected contemporary issues in the areas of sexual ethics, the 2014-15 Synods on the Family, health care and bioethics, and Catholics in the political arena will be discussed in terms of applying the fundamental themes of moral theology. The course format will include lecture, questions and discussion, as well as occasional Power Point and web-based presentations and one in-class movie (Robert Bolt’s A Man for All Seasons).

Beginning in the Third Week of the semester the students will be divided into four to six smaller groups (depending on total class enrollment) to facilitate reflection on the course readings by posting on Canvas reflection/discussion questions and replies based on one course readings assigned for that upcoming week in the syllabus. Following these small group discussions one person per group will be designated to upload a summary or key points of the group’s discussion onto Canvas and everyone in the class will be expected to read each group’s postings before the following class. Each person in the smaller group then can be expected to take charge of the group’s posting at least once in the semester.

A mid-term exam (given on October 18th) will be a 45 minute written exam in-class comprised of identifications of moral terms and a short essay taken from the list of terms and study guide questions posted in advance on Canvas. These will be based on the course lectures, readings. The final exam will be a comprehensive 20 minute oral exam held during the final week of class. Additionally students will be asked to complete one (1) mid-term case study (due on Canvas by October 11th), as well as one (1) case response evaluation to an anonymous case study presented by a student from a previous version of this course (due on November 29th), plus one (1) additional final case study due the Monday after the last day of class (December 12th) giving a theological and ethical reflection on one of three movies available for selection: “Lorenzo’s Oil,” “Steel Magnolias,” “Wit,” and/or “My Sister’s Keeper.” A brief synopsis of each movie is included below and the movies will be available in the O’Neill Library, as well as personal loan from the professor. If there is sufficient student interest
the movies will also be screened outside of class time (e.g., after class on a given day). Another movie may be substituted with the approval of the instructor.

**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](http://www.bc.edu/offices/cte/tools/canvas.html) [link verified January 2, 2016]

**Learning Outcomes: By the conclusion of this course the student should be able to**

1) Describe Catholic fundamental moral theology and articulate a general methodology and specific approaches to address particular topics listed in the accompanying **Course Description**, such as The Moral Person and Moral Community; Conscience, Moral Norms and the Natural Law; Evaluations of Moral Acts; Sin (personal and social), Conversion and Reconciliation; Roles of Church Teaching (Magisterium) & Tradition.

2) Be able to identify, evaluate, and explain the relative magisterial authority in line with the triple criteria of **character**, **manner**, and **frequency** expressed in **Lumen gentium** #25 of the range of documents and teachings from the Pope, the various dicasteries of the Holy See, Bishops Conferences and individual bishops.

3) Articulate recent magisterial, theological and historical developments in both methodology and application to selected concrete issues such as in the areas of sexual ethics, health care and bioethics, and Catholics in the political arena.

4) Describe these major theological debates on each topic and articulate a critical assessment of the various positions and present them in an understandable academic manner commensurate with graduate study a **status quaestionis** project on a moral issue that is currently a matter of ongoing debate within the field of Roman Catholic moral theology.

5) Frame and apply a pastoral approach shaped by Catholic fundamental moral theology to concrete pastoral moral cases in selected areas as in the areas of sexual ethics, health care and bioethics, and Catholics in the political arena.
Required Books


Required Articles [all available either online or via Canvas]

*N.B. Because the last half of the course focuses on “contemporary” moral problems there may be occasional short “op-ed” types of articles or brief news reports that will likely be asked to be read—no more than one per week though. These will be uploaded to Canvas in a special folder marked “Current News Pieces” and hopefully these will encourage class discussion.*


_______. “Magisterial Exegesis Guidelines” (file available on Canvas and at https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/MagisterialExegesis.pdf)


Francis, Pope Amoris Laetitia Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of Love in the Family, Ch.8 http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html


_____. “Catholics as Citizens.” America (1 November 2010): 13-16. [3 pages] Also available online at


Steinfels, Peter. “Beyond the Stalemate Forty Years after ‘Roe’” *Commonweal* 14 June 2013 (print version; 3 June 2013 online version: [http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/beyond-stalemate](http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/beyond-stalemate); See also the follow-up Letters to the Editor responding to the article, along with the author’s own response to the responses is found in the 16 August 2013 print edition, and posted online on 5 August 2013 at [http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/letters-abortion-stalemate-authors-reply](http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/letters-abortion-stalemate-authors-reply)


________. *Summa Theologiae I-II*, Question 1, Article 3 “Whether human acts are specified by their end?” [2 pages] [http://newadvent.org/summa/2001.htm#article3](http://newadvent.org/summa/2001.htm#article3) [link verified June 6, 2013]


US Catholic Bishops *Introductory Note* to *Faithful Citizenship* (new in 2011). Available on *Canvas*


Vatican II. Selections: [5 pages] Available online at
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm [link verified June 6, 2013]

*Lumen gentium* #25, #39-42. Available online at

*Gaudium et spes* #16, 30-32, 42-43, 47-52. Available online at

*Dignitatis humanae* #2. Available online at

*Optatam totius* #16. Available online at


https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/its-nothing-personal


Required Media: Each student should view at least one (1) of the following movies (available on in the O’Neill Library Media Center OR personal loan from the professor). If available, the scripts will be posted on Canvas and/or from the Professor, but they are NOT required reading for this assignment. Then, in an essay of no more than 5 (five) pages discuss one or more of the principal bioethical issues that arose in your chosen film.

“Lorenzo’s Oil” 2 hrs., 16 minutes, directed by George Miller and starring Nick Nolte and Susan Sarandon who play the parents of Lorenzo Odone in this true story of a young boy with an incurable disease (ALD). The Odones go to great lengths to obtain the best, experimental care for their son, and in so doing make great
contributions to the treatment protocols for this hereditary disease. The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxkyIRxJxh8 and the full movie at various streaming sites (if you find a genuinely “free” site please let the instructor know)

“Steel Magnolias” 118 minutes, film version of Robert Harling’s 1987 play, directed here by Herbert Ross and starring Sally Fields, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Dolly Parton, Daryl Hannah, and Olympia Dukakis. Fields plays M’Lynn, mother to Shelby (Julia Roberts), who donates a kidney to Shelby when her own kidneys fail after the birth of her child. The film looks at the complex issues regarding family relationships and medical decisions in very difficult situations. The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2lGgZgWj0k and the full movie at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnbVtijoPgQ

“Wit” 99 minutes, Emma Thompson, directed by Mike Nichols, after a play by Margaret Edson (ISBN 0-8222-1704-X). Professor Vivian Bearing (Thompson) is a renowned scholar of the poetry of John Donne (“Death Be Not Proud”) and has been diagnosed with incurable ovarian cancer. She undergoes a very aggressive experimental research program of chemotherapy led by Dr. Harvey Kelekian, assisted by his research fellow, Dr. Jacob Posner (a former student of Bearing’s). Bearing is cared for by Susie Monahan, R.N. and develops a relationship with her that helps support her in her last illness. The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bROGmi93prk and the full movie is also available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0PPvYlGqL8

“My Sister’s Keeper” 2009 film based on the novel of the same name by Jodi Picoult, revolving around a younger sibling has been conceived by in-vitro fertilization to provide a bone marrow transplant to her older sister suffering from leukemia. For more on the movie see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Sister%27s_Keeper_(film). The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP4NxUFgFrs and the full film is also available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK67apbTQoo A movie script (not required to be read!) can be found at http://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/movie_script.php?movie=my-sisters-keeper

RECOMMENDED Readings: Books

Bolt, Robert. “A Man for All Seasons” (movie to be viewed on or by November 19th)


such documents are now available online at
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm


**RECOMMENDED Readings: Articles**


_______. “Intrinsic Evil: Navigation between Shibboleth and Gauntlet.” Presentation to the College Theology Society 59th Annual Convention. Creighton University, 31 May 2013 [available on Canvas] [17 pages]

_______. “The Status Quaestionis of the Contraception Debate.” [16 pages] [Available on the Canvas Course web-page]


Recommended Viewing: [These videos are available for loan both from the Professor AND from the O’Neill Media Library on Level 2]


Other recommended readings will be suggested throughout the course, and students are also encouraged to suggest readings and/or post links to the course web-page.

N.B. Associate Academic Dean Bader has mandated that the following be added to all BC syllabi:
**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is expected at all classes. If an absence is foreseen please contact the professor before the class to be missed; if it is foreseen that there would be more than 2 absences in the semester please do not take this class. If an absence is unforeseen (e.g., illness or emergency) please contact the professor as soon as possible after the missed class. Absences result in lowering of the final grade or failure.

**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/acadpol.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html) [link verified June 6, 2013]

**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 full class participation (including full attendance) 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.

WEEKLY THEMES, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1 (August 30) Introduction & Models for Moral Methodology

Before the first class meeting

1) Please complete the online True/False quiz on 20 Questions On Contemporary Church Moral Teaching which will be available on Canvas on by August 22nd. This quiz is a “pre-test” and while the “answers” will be collected for pedagogical purposes (to see what is known, what is not known, what may be misunderstood, etc.) the “grade” for this quiz will NOT be factored into the course grade. We will use this quiz for both small & large group discussion in the first class.

2) Please review the file Definitions of Moral Theology and/or Christian Ethics https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/DefinitionsOfMoralTheology.pdf (also posted to Canvas)

Recommended
Bretzke, “Connecting the Dots: Proposing a Moral Triangle for Ethical Analysis.”
Bretzke, “Cultural Particularity and Globalization of Ethics in Light of Inculturation.”

In-class Small Group Exercise: Constructing Definitions of Moral Theology & Introductory Case Study on Filipino Vasectomies Analysis

WEEK 2 (Sept. 6th) History of Moral Theology and Introduction to Basic Concepts
View before Class: Moral Methodology Intro BCSTM Power Point
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/MoralMethodologyIntroBCSTM.ppsx

Read
Bretzke, Morally Complex World, Chs. 1 & 2
Thomas Aquinas, ST I-II, Q. 1, A. 3 “Whether human acts are specified by their end?” http://newadvent.org/summa/2001.htm#article3

Recommended
Curran, The Development of Moral Theology: Ch. 1
Johnstone, "From Physicalism to Personalism."

Optional viewing of Panopto Presentations to accompany Chapter 1

Part One of Introduction to Moral Methodology:
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

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

WEEK 3 (Sept. 13th) Scripture and Ethics: Bring a Bible to class (ideally, NOT the RSV translation)

Before Class please review and work through this Exercise (also posted on Canvas): Problematic Uses of Scripture in Ethics Introductory Exercise
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/ProblematicUsesOfScriptureInEthicsExercise.pdf

As part of the Exercise you will need to consult the 1 Corinthians 6 Translations Compared file (also available online at https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/1Corinthians6TranslationsCompared.pdf ) The link is also contained within the Problematic Uses of Scripture file.

Recommended Viewing Clips:
The “West Wing” Bible Lesson 3 minute clip:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1-ip47WYWc

“The Priest” Dualing Bible Quotes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--zPjGslI_fw
Read
Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 3
Vatican II, *Optatam totius* #16 At

**Recommended Reading:**
McDermott, "Is AIDS God's Punishment?";
Siker, "How to Decide? Homosexual Christians, the Bible, and Gentile Inclusion."

**After Class, if you wish, you might want to consult**

-Five-Step Methodology for Using Scripture in Ethics [https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/5StepMethodologyForUsingScriptureInEthics.pdf](https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/5StepMethodologyForUsingScriptureInEthics.pdf)

-And review the Power Point Presentation on Scripture & Ethics which will be unlocked after the class session has concluded.

**WEEK 4 (Sept. 20th) The Moral Person, Freedom, Virtue, Conscience, and Community**

**View before Class: Conscience Theology Introduction Power Point Presentation**
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/ConscienceTheologyIntro.ppsx

Read
Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Ch. 4 & Ch. 6


Lawler & Salzman, “Following Faithfully.” At http://americamagazine.org/issue/following-faithfully


Vatican II:
*Gaudium et spes* #16, 30-32; at
Dignitatis humanae #2; at  

Lumen gentium #39-42  

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Articles 1-3, Article 6, Ch. 2, Articles 1-3, OR use the online versions, such as http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm or http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html [links verified March 6, 2016]

Recommended:
Curran, The Development of Moral Theology: Ch. 2  
Fuchs, "Our Image of God and the Morality of Innerworldly Behavior."  
Fuchs, "The Phenomenon of Conscience: Subject-Orientaion and Object-Orientaion."  
Glaser, "Conscience and Super-Ego: A Key Distinction."  
*Mahoney, The Making of Moral Theology, Ch. 4,5.  
Selling, “Virtue and Motivation.”

Sample Case Study Done Together in Class (Mrs. Bergmeier) [please have read Bretzke’s Morally Complex World Ch. 6 for this exercise]

Recommended viewing: 6 Cs of Moral Discourse & the Moral Triangle of Ethical Analysis Power Point https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/Bretzke6CsMoralTriangleMethodology.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


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

WEEK 5 (September 27th)  Moral Good and Evil; Rightness and Wrongness of Actions

View before Class: Moral Good/Evil & Right/Wrong in Moral Agency Power Point Presentation https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/MoralGoodEvilRightWrongInMoralAgency.ppsx

Read
Keenan, "The Distinction between Goodness and Rightness."
Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Art. 4-5 OR use the online versions, such as http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm or http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html
Selling, “Is Lived Experience a Source of Morality?”

Recommended:
Rhonheimer, Author’s Preface & Ch. 1 of Vital Conflicts in Medical Ethics
Rubio. “Moral Cooperation with Evil and Social Ethics.”

WEEK 6 (Oct. 4th) Moral Norms and Natural Law

View before Class: Natural Law and Intrinsic Evil Power Point Presentation https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/NaturalLawAndIntrinsicEvil.ppsx

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 3, Art. 1 OR use the online versions, such as http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm or http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html
Recommended:
Curran, *The Development of Moral Theology*: Ch. 3
Fuchs, "The Absoluteness of Moral Terms."
John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* [remainder of the document]
Rhonheimer, Ch. 2 in *Vital Conflicts in Medical Ethics*

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


WEEK 7 (Oct. 11th) *Sin, Grace, Conversion, and Reconciliation*

*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/content/bc/schools/stm/edevnts/CampusEvents/PastLectures/2011/02-01-2011_2.html

Required Reading:

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.
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/

First Case Study Due By Class-time (to be submitted electronically on Canvas)

Read
Bretzke, Morally Complex World, Ch. 7
Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Art. 8, Ch. 3, Art. 2 OR use the online versions, such as
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm or
http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html
McCormick, P. "Human Sinfulness: Models for a Developing Moral Theology."

Recommended Reading:
Burke, "Social Sin and Social Grace."
Review Curran, The Development of Moral Theology: Ch. 1
Mahoney, The Making of Moral Theology, Ch. 3.

Recommended viewing:
Robert Bolt’s “Mission” (1986)
Helen Whitney’s “Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate” (4 hours)
http://www.helenwhitney.com/

WEEK 8 (October 18th) The Magisterium & The Church As Moral Teacher

45 minute in-class mid-term exam

View online before class: Magisterium Power Point
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/Magisterium.ppsx

Read
Bretzke, “Magisterial Exegesis Guidelines” (file on Canvas and at
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/MagisterialExegesis.pdf)
Francis, Pope. Evangelii gaudium Available at
O’Rourke, “Rights of Conscience: Responding to a Bishop’s Disciplinary Decisions.”
Vatican II: Lumen gentium #25
Wilson, “It’s Nothing Personal: The History of Papal Infallibility.”
https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/its-nothing-personal
**Recommended Reading**

Curran, *The Development of Moral Theology*: Ch. 4

**WEEK 9** (October 25th) *Roles of Church Teaching & Tradition in Abortion & Politics*

*View before Class: Political Choices in a Morally Complex World*

https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/PoliticalChoices.ppsx

**Read** Bretzke, “Morally Complex World, Ch. 5

**Read** Bretzke and Rodman, “After the Choice”

**Read** Callahan, Sidney, “Abortion and the Sexual Agenda”


**Read** Foster, “The Feminist Case Against Abortion.”

**Read** John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, #73, 74, 99 Available online at Available online at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html) [link verified March 6, 2016]

**Read** Steinfels, “Beyond the Stalemate Forty Years after ‘Roe’” AND the follow up Letters to the Editor (both available on *Canvas*) Also 3 June 2013 online version: [http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/beyond-stalemate](http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/beyond-stalemate) ; See also the follow-up Letters to the Editor responding to the article, along with the author’s own response to the responses is found in the 16 August 2013 print edition, and posted online on 5 August 2013 at [http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/letters-abortion-stalemate-authors-reply](http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/letters-abortion-stalemate-authors-reply)

**Read** Wolfe, “Our Bodies, Our Souls”


**Read** Gaillardetz, “The Limits of Authority”


**Read** Kaveny, “Catholics as Citizens.”

**Read** Kaveny, “Intrinsic Evil and Political Responsibility Also at [http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11166](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11166)


**Recommended Reading on Abortion as a Moral Issue:**

Harrison, “The Morality of Procreative Choice.”
Mathewes-Green, Frederica. “Perspective.”
Rhonheimer, Ch. 3 in Vital Conflicts in Medical Ethics
Bretzke, “Intrinsic Evil: Navigation between Shibboleth and Gauntlet”

Recommended Reading on the Planned Parenthood Funding Controversy


WEEK 10 (Nov. 1st) Roles of Church Teaching & Tradition in Sexual Ethics

View before Class: Church Teaching & Tradition in Sexual Ethics Power-Point Presentation https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/ChurchTeachingAndTraditionInSexualEthics.ppsx

Read
Cahill, "Catholic Sexual Ethics and the Dignity of the Person."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section One, Ch. 1, Art. 7; Ch. 3, Art. 3 OR use the online versions, such as http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm or http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section Two, Ch. 2, Articles 1-4; 6-10 OR use the online versions, such as
Gutting, Gary. “Unraveling the Church Ban on Gay Sex.”

Recommended Reading:
Bretzke, “Status Quaestionis of the Contraception Debate”
Mahoney, The Making of Moral Theology, Ch. 7.
Sklba, Bishop, "Theological Diversity and Dissent within the Church."

WEEK 11 (Nov. 8th) Synods on the Family and Roles of Church Teaching & Tradition in Regulation of Birth

Optional Viewing before Class: Irregular Unions in the 2014 Extraordinary Synod (based on the 2014 Extraordinary Synod [and NOT the 2015 Synod]) https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/IrregularUnionsInThe2014Synod.ppsx

Read
Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of Love in the Family. Ch.8

Paul VI, Humanae vitae.
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html


Tornielli, “On Synod reforms and that theology which was done with faith.”


Recommended Reading
WEEK 12 (November 15th) Roles of Church Teaching & Tradition in Health Care & End-of-Life Issues

View before Class: Catholic Moral Tradition & Health-Care Principles
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTraditionAndHealthCarePrinciples.ppsx

NB: Read these readings in this section in the chronological order of publication given below please

John Paul II,
Evangelium vitae. Paragraph #65. Or online at Available online at http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp_ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html [link verified March 6, 2016]
“Address on ‘Life-sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State.’” (20 March 2004)

“Address to the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care.” (11 November 2004)


Other required reading

_Catechism of the Catholic Church_, "Part Three: Life in Christ" Section Two, Ch. 2, Art. 5.  
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc/index.htm  or  
http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html

**Recommended Reading:**

Callahan, Daniel. "The Sanctity of Life Seduced: A Symposium on Medical Ethics."

Coleman, “Take and Eat: Morality and Medically Assisted Feeding.”

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.  _Donum vitae_ (Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation). Or online at  

_______., _Dignitas personae_. Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions Or online at  

_______., “_Jura et bona_. Declaration on Euthanasia.” Or online at  

Jaffe, “Videos on End-Of-Life Choices Ease Tough Conversation.”

Kopfensteiner, "Protecting a Dignified Death"

U.S. Catholic Bishops.  "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care” Available online at  

Mahoney, _The Making of Moral Theology_, Ch. 8.

**Case Response Evaluation Cases will be “unlocked” after Class on November 15th**

**WEEK 13 (Nov. 22nd) View and Discuss movie “A Man For All Seasons**

Here is the Trailer:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbZfh-5QsAw

The full-movie DVD will be made available for in-class viewing, or you can view the film here on YouTube:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU-ZNDDbfYA
**Recommended Reading:**
Curran, *The Development of Moral Theology: Conclusion*

Suggested initial review of *Case Response Evaluation Cases* (assignment due December 3rd)

**WEEK 14 (Nov. 29th) Mercy as a Key Element of Christian moral life**

*Case Response Evaluation due on Canvas by class-time*

**Required Reading:**

*Final Case Study (Movie analysis) due on Canvas by December 7th*

Review Quiz available online after Class Today

**WEEK 15 (Week of Dec. 6th) Oral Final Exams**

*The exams will be scheduled throughout this final week at a time mutually convenient to the professor and students*

*BEFORE* taking your Oral Exam it might be helpful to complete the Review Quiz which is/was made available online after the final class

**Recommended reading:**
Rigali, “On Presuppositions of Theological Ethics”