Course Description

The Catholic moral tradition will be examined, including historically-significant biblical and theological sources, Vatican II texts, and more recent Catholic teaching. Key themes followed throughout the course will include virtue, conscience, personal and social sin, the common good, preferential care for the poor and vulnerable, and the consistent ethic of life. Catholic social teaching, sexual ethics, and medical ethics will receive thorough coverage in the course.

Students will engage in the process of conscience formation, and will practice helping others to educate their consciences. With a goal of lifelong conscience formation, students will practice consulting scripture, reason and the natural law, the Catholic magisterium, holy role models, local and global religious communities, and research in other fields, such as science and economics. Christian discipleship will be examined in the context of personal spirituality, intentional lifestyle choices, and the call to community.

Learning Outcomes

Our goal is to deepen participants' critical consciousness of themselves and others as moral agents responsible for contributing to the common good in personal, professional, volunteer, and ministerial contexts. It is hoped that participants will move beyond this course to translate Christian vision and values into virtuous decisions, and into prudent, compassionate, and just social structures. More specifically, the course will enable students to:

- Appreciate the scope, distinctiveness, and historical development of Catholic moral tradition;
- Examine significant contemporary ethical issues in light of Catholic moral tradition;
- Make ethical decisions and assist others in making ethical decisions using resources provided in the Catholic moral tradition.

Required Texts

Bourg, Florence Caffrey. *Spirituality, Morality, and Ethics*. Loyola Institute for Ministry, 2012. (This book is available on the Blackboard website and from tfryan@loyno.edu).

Web links to other required readings and videos will be provided on Blackboard.

**Course Evaluation**

- Class participation (35% for graduate degree students; 90% for CEU students)
- Prayer Journal (10% graduate and CEU students)
- Conscience formation project (20%, graduate degree students only)
- Research paper on a social policy (30%, graduate degree students only)
- Preliminary steps of 2 major projects (5%, graduate students only)
  - Topic and partner for conscience formation project (2%)
  - Topic and preliminary bibliography for research paper (3%)

**LIM Grading Scale**

- A = 93-100
- A- = 90-92.9
- B++ = 87-89.9
- B = 83-86.9
- B- = 80-82.9
- C++ = 77-79.9
- C = 70-76.9
- F = 0-69

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2020**

B=Available on Blackboard or from tfryan@loyno.edu
O=Available online

**Week 1, January 6-12:** Introductions

**Week 2, January 13-19:** Christian spirituality & Catholic moral analysis: from the beginnings through the mid-20th century

- Bourg, chapter 1 (B)
- Keenan, pp. 1-4 and 67-70

Optional

- Accessibility score: Low Click to improve pp. 1-36 pp. 1-36 - Alternative Formats . 1 Corinthians and Book of Acts (browse)
- The Rule of St. Benedict (browse) (O)

**Week 3, January 20-26:** The era of Vatican II and beyond

- Bourg, chapter 2
- Gaudium et Spes, paragraphs 40-45 and 83-93 (O)
Optional

- Conference of Latin American Bishops, Medellin, Columbia (September 6, 1968): Statements on “Poverty in the Church,” “Justice,” and “Peace” (B).
  Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, paragraphs 1-18 (O)
- Conscience Formation Project Part 1 Due

Week 4, January 27-February 2:  Human nature and virtue

Week 5, February 3-9:  Conscience and Catholic Magisterium

Week 6, February 10-16:  Discussion/writing/research time
- Final Conscience Formation Project Due

Week 7, February 17-23:  A Consistent Ethic of Life
- Social Policy Topic and Bibliography Due
- Prayer Journal 1 Due

Week 8, February 24-March 1:  *Mardi Gras Break*

Week 9, March 2-8:  Faith and Citizenship

Week 10, March 9-15:  Economic Justice and Stewardship

Week 11, March 16-22:  Marital Spirituality and Sexual Ethics

Week 12, March 23-29:  Health care ethics

Week 13, March 30-April 5:  Mercy and punishment; peace and war

Week 14, April 6-12:  *Easter Break*

Week 15, April 13-19:  Environmental Justice
- Prayer Journal 2 Due

Week 16, April 20-26:  Discussion/writing/research

Week 17, April 27-May 3  Final Paper Due