

**SEXUAL ETHICS IN THE CONTEXT OF CATHOLIC MORAL THEOLOGY  
PM 286**

**Santa Clara University  
Fall Quarter, 2011-2012  
Gerald D. Coleman, S.S.**

1. Class Meetings:
  - a. Wednesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
  - b. September 21 – November 30.
  
2. Course Objectives:
  - a. To study the official method and anthropology employed in Catholic sexual ethics.
  - b. To study varying methods and anthropologies regarding sexual ethics.
  - c. To study magisterial documents regarding certain questions in sexual ethics.
  - d. To foster a theological and pastoral approach to sexual ethics for the contemporary church.
  - e. To facilitate self-insight about the place of sexuality in one's own life.
  
3. Course Content:
  - a. Sexual Morality in the Catholic Tradition: A Brief History.
  - b. Natural Law and Sexual Anthropology:
    - i. Magisterial Framework:
      1. Natural and Unnatural Sins.
      2. The Morality of Human Acts.
    - ii. Natural Law and Sexual Anthropology:
      1. Catholic Revisionists.
      2. Unitive Sexual Morality.
  - c. Special Questions in Sexual Morality:
    - i. Sexual intimacy.
    - ii. Impotence and Sterility.
    - iii. Gender Assessment:
      1. Gender Identity.
      2. Sexual Orientation.
      3. Sexual Intention.
    - iv. Questions in Sexuality:
      1. Transsexualism.
      2. Transvestism.
      3. Pedophilia and Ephebophilia.
      4. Sexual addiction.
    - v. Cybersex.
    - vi. Pornography.
  - d. *Dignitatis Personae*, CDF, 2008: “Anthropological, Theological and Ethical Aspects of Human Life and Procreation.”
  - e. Homosexuality:

- i. Overview:
    - 1. Its meaning – toward a definition.
    - 2. Distinction between one’s orientation and one’s sexual activity.
    - 3. The Kinsey spectrum.
    - 4. Passages as suggested by Evelyn Eaton Whitehead and James D. Whitehead.
    - 5. Language.
    - 6. Homophobia.
    - 7. Pastoral Concerns (teenagers; divorce).
    - 8. Outing.
  - ii. “Causes.”
  - iii. Psychology and homosexuality.
  - iv. Biblical data – texts, context and concept.
    - 1. Genesis 19.
    - 2. Leviticus 18.
    - 3. 1 Cor 6.
    - 4. 1 Tim 1.
    - 5. Romans 1.
  - v. *Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons*, CDF, 1986.
  - f. Non-Marital Sex and Human Relationships:
    - i. Context.
    - ii. Pre-marital Sex.
    - iii. Pre-ceremonial Sex.
    - iv. Non-marital Sex.
    - v. Extra-marital sex.
    - vi. Cohabitation before marriage.
    - vii. Other relevant concerns:
      - 1. Pre-marital divorce.
      - 2. Ways of “making love.”
      - 3. Sexual fantasies.
      - 4. The psychological needs of love, esteem and security.
      - 5. Date rape.
      - 6. Domestic violence.
4. Course Requirements:
- a. Class attendance:
    - i. Missing two classes amounts to an invitation to withdraw from the course; or receive the grade of F.
    - ii. Inform Fr. Coleman by email if you are unable to be present for a class: [frgeraldcoleman@dochs.org](mailto:frgeraldcoleman@dochs.org)
  - b. Required Readings:
    - i. All class handouts.
    - ii. *Human Sexuality: An All-Embracing Gift*, Gerald D. Coleman, New York: Alba House, 1992.

- iii. *The Sexual Person*, Todd A. Salzman & Michael G. Lawler, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2008
- c. Recommended Reading: *A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*, Margaret Farley, New York: Continuum, 2006.
- d. Take-home examination – given on November 12 and due on November 19: on all materials covered thus far in the course. All examinations MUST be handed in at class time on November 19.
- e. Research paper – due no later than Friday, December 2 – NO EXTENSIONS PERMITTED.
  - i. Eight (8) page maximum.
  - ii. Foot/end notes.
  - iii. Title page.
  - iv. Pagination.
  - v. Bibliography.
  - vi. Correct English grammar and expression.
  - vii. Format – stated in the paper:
    - 1. Purpose of the paper.
    - 2. Catholic Teaching on the subject.
    - 3. Moral analysis and conclusion.
  - viii. One of these topics:
    - 1. Non-Marital Sex.
    - 2. Homosexuality.

#### 5. Grading:

- a. Class participation: 5%
- b. Written examination: 45%.
- c. Research paper: 50%.

#### 6. General Policies:

- a. Writing tutor: consult with Saralynn Ferrara, Graduate Department of Pastoral Ministries.
- b. Plagiarism: The standards of the University preclude any form of cheating, plagiarism, forgery of signatures, and falsification of data. A student who commits any offense against academic honesty and integrity may receive a failing grade without a possibility of withdrawal. An offense may also dictate suspension or dismissal from the University. Plagiarism is the practice of claiming, or implying, original authorship of (or incorporating material from) someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgment. Unlike cases of forgery, in which the authenticity of the writing, document, or some other kind of object itself is in question, plagiarism is concerned with the issue of false attribution.
- c. Disability Accommodations Procedure: contact Disability Resources in Benson 216, (408) 554-4109. Students must provide documentation of a disability prior to receiving academic accommodations.

7. Contact Information:
  - a. Fr. Gerald Coleman, 1100 Woodside Rd., Redwood City, CA 94061, (650) 298-9953, [frgeraldcoleman@dochs.org](mailto:frgeraldcoleman@dochs.org)
  - b. By appointment, Fr. Coleman is available to any student before or after each class.