



Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministry of Santa Clara University

PMIN 207

Ethics and Spirituality: Perspectives in Catholicism

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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the moral/ ethical and spiritual traditions in Catholicism. Moral/ethical topics include methodologies, questions in the areas of biomedical ethics, sexuality, the environment, terrorism, and war. Topics in spirituality include history and themes, spirituality of the faithful, relationships and community, prayer, and the work of selected contemporary spiritual authors.

Students read assigned texts and engage in online group discussion, submit reflection papers and create a team project. Student initiated topics, questions, and responses are encouraged.

At the end of the class the students should have a grasp of the main perspectives and currents in Christian thought on ethical issues and spiritual life, and their relevance and use in pastoral ministry. An over- arching task for the class is to integrate the two areas of ethics and spirituality.

Required Texts for Morality/Ethics:

Bretzke, James T. *A Morally Complex World: Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology*. Liturgical Press, 2004.

Gula, Richard M. *The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge*. Paulist Press, 1999.

Moral Issues and Christian Responses. Ed. Patricia Beattie Jung and Shannon Jung, 7th edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2002.

Required Texts for Spirituality:

Dreyer, Elizabeth A. *Earth Crammed With Heaven: A Spirituality of Everyday Life*. Paulist Press, 1994.

Cunningham, Lawrence S. and Keith J. Egan. *Christian Spirituality: Themes from the Tradition*. Paulist Press, 1996.

Rolheiser, Ronald. *Forgotten Among the Lilies: Learning to Love Beyond Our Fears* by Random House, 2007.

Sheldrake, Philip. *A Brief History of Spirituality*. Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

Articles and short pieces are also posted online and are required reading.

The class texts are intended to form the background from which students can raise questions and select topics for further exploration. For their team project, students present their findings on a chosen topic and invite their classmates' responses. Since the required texts are substantial they should be bought, read, and reflected upon before the start of the Summer Session.

The online class management system called ANGEL is user friendly, and requires no special technological skills in order to navigate the course. Santa Clara University offers very helpful technological support for any tech difficulties that might be encountered.