S A N T A  C L A R A  U N I V E R S I T Y

PMIN 207
Theology of Marriage

Spring 2019  Prof. Parrella

SYLLABUS

[N.B. The following syllabus, while based on the undergraduate syllabus with the same readings, has been restructured for the particular pastoral and liturgical needs of students in the Pastoral Ministries Program.]

• “The world is a beautiful and terrible place. Deeds of horror are committed every minute and in the end those we love die. If the screams of all the earth’s living creatures were one scream of pain, surely it would shake the stars. But we have love. It may seem a frail defence against the horrors of the world, but we must hold fast and believe in it, for it is all we have.”
  —P. D. James (British mystery writer, 1920–2014)

• “When it came down to reality, what mattered except the lives of those who love? All that was precious was made up of actions and of love, of belief in the purpose beyond the habits of living from day to day.”
  —Anne Perry (Mystery writer, 1938–)

• “Others are succeeding in making modern life easier and easier. In fact, insufferably easy. And so, out of love of humankind and incapable of making anything easier...I have realized that my contribution to our times should be to create difficulties everywhere.”
  —Johannes Climacus (Soren Kierkegaard, Great Danish philosopher, 1813-1855) (loose translation).

• “A professor is one who talks in someone else’s sleep.”
  —W. H. Auden (Distinguished British American poet, 1907–1973)

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to explore human relationships, friendships, intimacy, commitment, and marriage in the contemporary world from a theological and pastoral perspective. Four topic areas will be considered: (1) an analysis of our culture in which marriage takes place; (2) a foundational theology of human persons as persons in relation; (3) an understanding of the intimate connection between marriage and the reality of God as the constitutive ground of authentic human intimacy and the ultimate ground of reality as holy and sacramental; (4) an ecclesial and pastoral application of a theology of marriage for both young people in the Church and the “Nones” in our culture.
**REQUIRED READINGS**


Summary of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) on Love and the Family. 08.04.2016.


**PAPERS**

Four (4) papers are required for this course. They are to be creative theological essays based on a careful study and analysis of the assigned and auxiliary readings. The form used in each paper is the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The most recent edition of this work in popular form is this: *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* by Kate L. Turabian, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. This contains all the information on the mechanics of a term paper: capitalization, footnotes or endnotes, spelling, punctuation, bibliographies, typing, etc. Also recommended for style and good writing is William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 3rd ed., New York: Macmillan, 1979 (1935). This classic work contains chapters on elementary rules of usage, principles of composition, formation of style, matters of form, and words and expressions commonly misused in writing. Please follow the instructions on the Writing Guide, located at the beginning of the course packet, carefully. They will give you advice on writing a well-constructed and grammatically correct essay and instruct you of the proper form for the text and foot/endnotes ( whichever you prefer).
Since full references are contained in the footnotes or endnotes (either way is acceptable), no bibliography or “works cited” page is necessary. If you are citing the readings from the course packet, the full reference is on the syllabus under the required readings. Be sure to change the form from bibliographical to footnote style (see the Writing Guide in your packet.)

• **PAPER ONE**

**An Essay Exploring Sexual Identity and Gender Stereotyping in Today’s Culture**

A **three (3) page (minimum)** essay that seeks to answer this question: What does our culture tell us about sexual identity and about behaviors, expectations, and constraints imposed on young people by their being male or female? How do these culturally determined views affect your understanding of the young people in your ministry in relationships and/ or preparing for marriage?

**Sources:** Pamela Houston “How To Talk To a Hunter.”
From Scott/Warren, *Perspectives on Marriage*: Deborah Tannen, 244–259; Lenore Walker, 276–292; Connell Cowan/Melvyn Kinder, 293–300; Robert Johnson, 222–229; Lawrence Stone, 176–186; Thomas Lickona, 196–206; and any other article from *Perspectives on Marriage* you may find helpful.

**Due:** 3rd week

• **PAPER TWO**

**An Essay on a Significant Problem of Relationships, Love, Commitment, Sexuality, and/or Marriage in Modern/ Postmodern Culture**

A **five (5) page (minimum)** essay that examines one or more of the significant problems of relationships, love, commitment, sexuality, and/or marriage in modern/postmodern culture. Fashion a topic from the assigned readings and from your experience as a mature adult and as a minister to young people in the Church. Not all of the following sources have to be used but the wider range of texts used, the stronger and richer the paper.

**Sources:** Berger, “Marriage and the Construction of Reality.”
Becker, “Otto Rank and the Closure of Psychoanalysis…”
Tillich, “Being and Love.”

**Due:** 6th week

• **PAPER THREE**

*I and Thou* and Relationships, Commitment, and Marriage
A five (5) page (minimum) essay on Martin Buber’s *I and Thou* that interprets relationships and/or marriage in light of Buber’s interpersonal philosophy and theology. Your essay should have two parts: first, the basic approach in the book, that is, an explanation of the meaning of the two basic words of I–Thou and I–It and the nature of the Eternal Thou; second, an application, as practical or theoretical as you would like, of Buber’s ideas to the pastoral situation of young people in the Church and your particular ministry. The essential point is to inform the reader that you have mastered the basic insights of Buber’s text and have applied them thoughtfully and creatively to ministry involving relationships and/or marriage. [In citing the text of *I and Thou*, be sure you use “Thou,” not “You,” in your paper.]

**Sources:** *I and Thou*

**Due:** 9th week

**Paper Four**

A six (6) page (minimum) theological and pastoral essay on the meaning of marriage and the family based on the nature and importance of marriage in an ecclesial context, its nature as a sacrament of the Catholic Church, and the meaning of the family and ways of fostering a healthy family spirituality. It is not necessary, of course, to use all of these sources, but choose to work with several of them that fit into your particular ministry and that will be most helpful to you.

**Sources:**
- Mackin, “Marriage as a Sacrament”
- Parrella, “Toward a Spirituality of the Family”
- *Gaudium et Spes*, par. 47-52.
- Summary of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) on Love and the Family. 08.04.2016
- Any article in Scott/Warren, *Perspectives on Marriage: A Reader*, that may be helpful, and any articles from the bibliography that may be of service.

**Due:** 11th week.

**NB. on Papers**

**Citations:** On foot/endnotes, please use the University of Chicago method from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, the method used in the GPPM. No “works cited” page is required nor is a bibliography necessary in a short paper. All the information is contained in the footnotes.

Note: when citing texts from the required reading list, the full reference is on the required reading list above. (It is in bibliographic form so you must convert it to footnote form—see the Writing Guide in your packet for the template.)

Also note:
(1) Be sure to number the pages of your paper.
(2) Only one full reference to anything quoted is necessary in the entire paper, and not just on one page.

Grading Policy

(1) Grades will be based on two factors: (1) the papers required for the course (90%); (2) class attendance and participation (10%). Papers will be evaluated on the basis of the student’s ability: (a) to reveal to the reader his/her command of the assigned readings in both depth and breadth; (b) to develop a clear and coherent argument of the student’s choosing based upon the required readings and integrating the argument or thesis into a pastoral, catechetical, or liturgical context.

(2) The grade of Incomplete will be given out only under special and unusual circumstances. For students who receive a grade of Incomplete, all work required for the course must be submitted no later than the beginning of the fourth week of the next term.

Grades and Numerical Equivalents

The numerical equivalents are based on the University’s 4.0 grading system:

$A = 4.00; A- = 3.7; B+/A = 3.5; B+ = 3.3; B/B+ = 3.15; B = 3; B- = 2.7; C+/B = 2.5; C+ = 2.3; C/C+ = 2.15; C = 2.00; C- = 1.7,$ et al.

Disabilities Resources

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, www.scu.edu/disabilities as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please discuss them with me during my office hours. Students who have medical needs related to pregnancy or parenting may be eligible for accommodations.

While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information, you may contact Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4109.

Sexual Harassment and Discrimination (Title IX)

Santa Clara University upholds a zero tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please go to www.scu.edu/studentlife/about/osl.cfm and click on the link for the University’s Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy or contact the University’s EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie, at 408-554-3043 or by email at bguthrie@scu.edu. Reports may be submitted online through www.scu.edu/osl/report or anony-
mously through Ethicspoint: www.ethicspoint.com or http://stage-www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethics-point/

Extended Statement on Title IX and Reporting Practices (adapted, with permission, from Scott Lewis, J.D.)

While I want you to feel comfortable coming to me with issues you may be struggling with or concerns you may be having, please be aware that there are some reporting requirements that are part of my job at Santa Clara University.

For example, if you inform me of an issue involving harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, I will keep the information as private as I can, but I am required to bring it to the attention of the institution’s EEO and Title IX Coordinator. If you inform me that you are struggling with an issue that may be resulting in, or caused by, traumatic or unusual stress, I will likely inform the Office of Student Life.

If you would like to reach out directly to the Office of Student Life for assistance, you can contact them at www.scu.edu/osl/report. If you would like to talk to the Office of EEO and Title IX directly, they can be reached at 408-554-3643 or by email at bguthrie@scu.edu. Reports may be submitted online through www.scu.edu/osl/report or anonymously through Ethicspoint: www.ethicspoint.com. Additionally, you can report incidents or complaints to the Office of Student Life (OSL), Campus Safety Services, and local law enforcement. For confidential support, contact the Counseling and Psychological Services office (CAPS), the Wellness Center, the YWCA, or a member of the clergy (for example, a priest or minister).

Finally, please be aware that if, for some reason, our interaction involves disruptive behavior, a concern about your safety or the safety of others, or potential violation of University policy, I will inform the Office of Student Life. The purpose of this is to keep OSL apprised of incidents of concern, and to ensure that students can receive or stay connected to the academic support and student wellness services they need.

Schedule

This schedule or readings should serve as a guideline for your work. Please follow it as best as you can.

For the week of:

- **Week 1**: Pamela Houston’s short story; introductory paper
- **Week 2**: From Scott/Warren, *Perspectives on Marriage*: Deborah Tannen, 244–259; Lenore Walker, 276–292; Connell Cowan/Melvyn Kinder, 293–300; Robert Johnson, 222–229; Lawrence Stone, 176–186; Thomas Lickona, 196–206.
- **Week 3**: P. Berger article; E. Becker article
- **Week 5**: Tillich, “Being…”; R. May; Scott and Warren selections that might interest you
- **Week 6**: Tillich; May; Scott and Warren selections
- **Week 7**: M. Buber, *I and Thou*
- **Week 8**: M. Buber, *I and Thou*
- **Week 9**: Mackin; Parrella; final questions on *I and Thou*
Week 10    Mackin; Parrella; Gaudium et Spes; Scott and Warren selections; Tillich, sermon
Week 11    Final paper due, 11th week at 5:00 PM.

CONSULTATION

My office is in Kenna Hall, Suite 300, Room H. If you wish to consult with me at any time about your papers or any other issue related to the course, please make an appointment after class or by text, email, or phone for a mutually convenient time. You may text or call me on my cell phone or call me at home on any day of the week with questions or issues you may have. Be sure to leave your telephone number if you reach my voice mail. If you leave an email message, expect an answer within 12-24 hours.

Email: fparrella@scu.edu
Cell: 408.674.3108
Home telephone: 408.259.8225
Office telephone: 408.554.4714

“When I shall be dead, tell the kingdom of the earth that I have loved it much more than I have ever dared to say.”