

TESP 124 Theology of Marriage RTC3
216 Kenna Hall Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 1:00- 3:10
**THERE WILL BE NO USE OF COMPUTERS, TABLETS, OR OTHER
ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING CLASS TIME**

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Place in the Core: RTC3

The University values critical reflection about religion. This course addresses that value first by exploring the two foundational learning outcomes for the University Core requirement. They are:

1. Students will identify diverse perspectives and evaluate ethical positions on contemporary questions.
2. Students will evaluate and apply insights from the study of religion to open-ended questions facing contemporary society.

In TESP 124, we approach these religious questions in explicit dialogue with Catholic Christianity's truth claims about the human community's relationship with the Living God. This is a course in the *Theology* of marriage. In true and long-standing Catholic style, we make use of the critical disciplines from many vectors in the Academy in order to approach humane questions with coherence and integrity.

Course Description

This course addresses this central question: "Who or what is the/a Marital Community?"

In Catholic teaching the family is called "the domestic Church." In this course we shall explore the Church's teachings they display a coherent intellectual marriage. We shall trace the way married life for both personal and Gospel of Jesus Christ. Having development, we shall explore nourish and express the Christian life. exploration is the theological notion is the process whereby a teaching *magisterium* is integrated into the community. This notion of reception displays the way that the Catholic tradition takes seriously the human mind and imagination. Our intention is to discover how this



about marriage to see if understanding of Christianity imagined corporate responses to the inspected this history and marriage as a signal way to Our method for this of "reception." Reception articulated by the Christian life of the

process works by applying it to marriage and family life. All Christian teaching should nourish the Christian life and animate service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A hallmark of Catholic Theology is its intellectual coherence; we shall be looking for such coherence with the contemporary intellectual landscape.

Texts

All readings are posted on *Camino*. The link for Lessons contains a folder for Reading Assignments

Copies of these texts are on Reserve in the library.

Course Goals

- Students will be able to describe and explain the Christian theologies of Creation, Incarnation and Sanctification as each one intersects with, and is displayed in, Christian communities.
- Students will be able to assess how or whether these teachings are consistently expressed in various Christian notions of family from early Christianity to the present.
- Students will be able to describe the nature and mission of the Church for the purpose of inspecting the Catholic teaching that the family is the domestic Church.
- Students will be able to describe the function of the Liturgical Year in individual spiritual life and in family life. (The presumption here is that the Liturgical Year clusters Creation, Incarnation and Sanctification into a teaching/practice framework that can animate marriage and family life.
- Students will learn the shift from deductive to the inductive reflection that is displayed in contemporary theology in order to engage insights from contemporary scholarship regarding intimate relationships and family life.
- Students will acquire the tools for applying these insights to their own discernment when they begin to reflect upon their own committed, enduring commitments.

Requirements

Group Discussion: (25%)

Class Attendance and Engagement: (20%)

Critical Analysis of a "text" 7-9 pages paper. (Instructions on *Camino*) 55%.

Attendance and Participation

Class is important. Your grade will be lowered for excessive absences. The daily reading outside class will act as the frame for the material presented in class each day. The readings provide you material that we shall be placing in conversation with the material presented in class. In this way, each class day models the form of analysis that I will be asking you to use when you write your paper. Attendance in class is very important. The class is incomplete without the material presented each day. If you miss

class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and to learn the material for the day you missed. The professor will not re-teach the material. If you are sick or unable to attend, please notify the professor. Notifying the professor of illness or necessary absence is both courteous and professional. I do not have a "policy" regarding "free absences." I do not expect you to miss class any more than your employer "expects" you to miss work. I do however, understand that things happen and illnesses strike us all. readings, but also on the lectures.

Calendar

Reading assignments

July 25: Introduction Read the syllabus carefully. Focus on the Course Description. Come to class prepared to describe any specific questions that you hope we address this term.

July 26: Charles Curran "Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics: A Dissenting View"

July 28: Lantana

August 2: Lisa Sowle Cahill "Notes on Moral Theology/Marriage: Developments in Catholic Theology and Ethics" See also the posted document for engaging this essay. Discussion for Cahill's "Developments" Essay.

August 4: Further Readings TBA

August: 8

August 9:

August: 11

August 15:

August 16:

August 18: Lars and the Real Girl

August 22: Lars and the Real Girl

August 23: Summary

Organizational Presuppositions

There are three background values that will be operative in this class, especially in the time we spend together. These values take the form of goals.

A. The first goal is to develop university level discourse. By this I mean that the questions and the formulation of arguments should consist of careful critical analysis.

B. The second goal is consistent and dependent upon the first; it is that this is a professional environment.

- I expect students to be in class on time and ready to work when class starts. Tardiness is disruptive to the class.
- I expect students to have an email account that is checked daily. Please make sure your SCU email account is activated. This will be the major way that I communicate with students.
- If you use a laptop, it may be used only for notes. The only program that should be open is your word- processing/note-taking program. Do not have a browser open during class time; class time is for our work together not for your private work. If you use the laptop for any other purpose, I shall mark you absent for that class period. You are not fully present to the class if you are texting someone during class. In addition, your lack of attention to the professor and your academic colleagues is rude and distracting.
- Your phone or other devices should be turned off during class. My phone is; I expect yours to be too.

C. The third goal is that this class, and especially the time in the classroom, becomes a learning community. Both the vision and mission of Catholicism as a corporate community and the university embrace and affirm this value.

Theological Presuppositions

Theology is critical reflection upon faith. Because this class is a university class, the critical reflection, it will be even farther away from catechesis than any adult education or more advanced high school classes you may have attended. One of the hallmarks of Catholicism is how it has embraced and encouraged the intellectual life. At the same time, this critical reflection has as its object the most personal and meaningful aspects of human life. It reflects upon our experience of the Living God and that God's personal presence in each person's inner life and in the corporate life of the community.

Therefore, a constitutive part of the critical reflection is the respect for and attention to the various experiences of God that all of us will bring to this study. I shall work to achieve this standard and ask that you do so as well. While this course may indeed enhance and develop your own faith life, it is not materially about your faith life; it is materially concerned with critical reflection upon the meaning of human existence and God's existence. Wherever you as an individual person find yourself with regard to these questions of meaning, will in no way effect the grade you earn in this course. You earn a grade that describes how well you engage these questions at the university level.

Disability Accommodation Policy

The Office of Disabilities Resources has been designated by the University to ensure access for all students with disabilities to all academic programs and University resources. Types of disabilities include medical, physical, psychological, attention-deficit, and learning disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are provided to minimize the effects of a student's disability and to maximize the potential for success. Santa Clara University follows the law that states: "Professors cannot change essential course requirements." Any accommodation must be arranged through the Office of Disabilities Resources. From Undergraduate Bulletin: "To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must register with Disabilities Resources and provide appropriate documentation to that office prior to receiving accommodations." Please visit the Office's Website for more information.

<http://www.scu.edu/advising/learning/disabilities/>

Academic Integrity

Students need to be aware of and follow the university's academic integrity policy. See <http://www.scu.edu/academics/bulletins/undergraduate/Academic-Integrity.cfm>. Plagiarism will lower your grade and may result in an F for the course.

Grading Scale:

100- 98 outstanding 97- 94 exceptional 93- 90 excellent 89- 87 very good 86- 83 solid performance 82- 80 good

79- 76 average