

MORAL THEOLOGY (MORL)

MORL 403 Liturgy and Justice (3 Credits)

This course examines the reciprocal relationship between liturgy and justice. In addition to drawing from historically influential Christian sources, the class will engage contemporary theory and practice related to understandings of justice and liturgical celebration. In doing so, the course helps students discern and articulate their own theological frameworks for approaching justice liturgically, and for practicing liturgy justly. Students will engage course material both through methods of theological ethics and of liturgical/sacramental theology.

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent courses: LTGY 403

MORL 421 Fundamental Moral Theology (3 Credits)

This course covers the foundations of the Christian moral life and of Christian moral decision making. The fundamental themes to be covered include, but are not limited to: freedom, conscience formation and moral agency, moral normativity, what constitutes moral reasoning, the use of scripture, tradition and natural law in moral decisions, the interplay between sin and grace, virtue ethics, and the ecclesial aspect of moral decisions.

Prerequisites: None

MORL 422 Christian Social Ethics (3 Credits)

The implications of Christian faith and theological reflection for contemporary society. The social dimensions of biblical ethics and the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

Prerequisites: None

MORL 428 Survey of Moral Topics (3 Credits)

This course examines how the application of fundamental moral themes informs particular issues of Christian morality. Particular issues potentially covered fall under the global nature of moral theology, life and death, sexuality, biomedical ethics, ethics of pastoral ministry, and the intersection of church and state.

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent courses: THEO 394B

MORL 428A Healthcare Ethics (3 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

MORL 428B Christian Sexual Ethics (3 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

MORL 428C Virtue Ethics (3 Credits)

Virtue ethics is a rich strand of the Catholic ethical tradition. The discipline begins with a simple, common human question: what is it to be happy? Christianity proposes a distinctive answer. This this course, we will begin with questions about the good life, continue by examining the role of the passions in making us happy, and finally focus on the virtues as constitutive of human happiness/flourishing. Our readings draw from a range of authors – Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, and contemporary theologians. The point of the course is to help students become conversant in this intellectual tradition and articulate in sharing it with others.

Prerequisites: None

MORL 456 Rural Social Issues (3 Credits)

An examination of major social issues affecting rural America, the social justice dimensions of these issues, and their implications for ministry in the Church. Cross-listed with PTHM 456.

Prerequisites: None

MORL 468A Catholic Environmental Ethics and Spirituality (3 Credits)

Inspired by the integral ecology of Laudato Si', this course explores Catholic commitment to care for our common home. It does so from a theological perspective, focusing especially on the spiritual roots of the crisis and spiritual resources from within the Catholic tradition (such as Benedictine spirituality) that can inform one's response to that crisis. That is, this course aims to help students express how one might live in right relationship with God, neighbor, and creation and promote ecclesial practices that hear the cries of the earth and the poor. Cross listed with SPIR 468.

Prerequisites: None

MORL 468B Living Ecologically in a Time of Climate Change (3 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent courses: SPIR 468B

MORL 468C Technology and Ministry (3 Credits)

This course will explore some of the ethical questions and challenges to ministry, particularly with youth, raised by new technologies. We will consider genetic engineering and CRISPER, AI and robotics, social media and video games, examining how these new technologies reframe our conception of what it means to be human and form the ground in which we relate to one another, to ourselves, and to God. Cross Listed PTHM 468K / MORL 468C.

Prerequisites: None

Equivalent courses: PTHM 468K

MORL 468D Marriage, Singleness and Celibacy (3 Credits)

This course will examine Christian states of life using biblical, historical, and contemporary ecclesial and theological sources. Drawing upon insights from Eastern, Western, and Reformed traditions, this course will demonstrate the importance of creation, anthropology, and eschatology for a Christian understanding of vocation. Perduring life states, enduring vows, and the meaning of family and community will be explored with special reference to the sacramental and moral character of the Christian journey.

Prerequisites: None