

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Spring 2019

Monday

6:00-8:30 pm

MT600 Fundamentals of Theological Ethics

Rev. Christopher Dreisbach, PhD

Course Description:

A survey of the major foundational themes in Christian ethics, such as sin and virtue, moral development, conscience and character, Scripture and ethics, and approaches to selected contemporary issues.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 700 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** Students should expect to write *at most* 25 double-spaced pages
 - **Twelve one-page Reflection Papers** (60 % of course grade)
 - Each paper should be no longer than 300 words and should address an issue in the day's assigned readings.
 - The essay should make clear (a) the issue, (b) the significance of the issue for you, and (c) whether you think the author's view on this issue is correct and why
 - A paper is due for each class meeting starting on January 19 and ending on April 26. At the instructor's discretion, late papers may receive a reduction in grade.
 - In each class one or more papers may be the basis for the day's discussion.
 - **Research Paper** (written work 25% of course grade; oral presentation 5% of course grade)
 - Write an essay on a topic in Christian ethics. The paper should address the following questions: (a) What is the topic? (b) Why is this topic important to Christian ethics? (c) What are some of the more influential views, including conclusions and premises, concerning the topic? (d) Which view do you think is the most reasonable? Why? (e) What is one reasonable objection to this view?
 - Papers should be typed, double-spaced, no longer than 3000 words, and submitted no later than our final class meeting at 6:00 PM. At the instructor's discretion, any paper submitted late may receive a reduction in grade.
 - Students will present their papers orally in class near the end of the term.
- **Other: Attendance and participation** (10% of course grade)

Required Course Texts

- Pinckaers, Servais. *Morality: The Catholic View*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2003. ISBN-13: 9781587315152
- Spohn, William. *What are They Saying about Scripture and Ethics?* Fully revised and expanded ed. New York: Paulist Press, 1996. ISBN-13: 9780809136094

- Wells, Samuel. *God's Companions: Reimagining Christian Ethics*. Malden, WA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006. ISBN-13: 9781405120142.
- Wells, Samuel, ed., *Christian Ethics: An Introductory Reader*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. ISBN-13: 9781405168878. {Hereafter **Reader**}
- Wells, Samuel & Quash, Ben. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. Malden, WA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. ISBN-13: 9781405152761. {Hereafter **Introduction**}
- West, Traci C. *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780664229597