

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Summer 2019

ST681 The Goodness of Being Human

Pro Ecclesia Conference, June 3-5, at Loyola University. Also, at the EI: May 16 (6-9pm), May 23 (6-9pm), June 5 (12-3pm), June 13 (6-9pm), and June 24 (6-9pm).

Dr. Mark Gorman

Course Description:

This course is offered in conjunction with the 2019 Pro Ecclesia Conference (June 3-5), *What Good Are We? Reflecting on the Goodness of Humanity in an Age of Skepticism*. Attendance at the conference is required, and the cost of the conference is included with your course registration through the E.I.

Christians believe that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Modern Western culture, however, seems to undermine the fundamental goodness of human existence in its ideas, practices, and technology. Moving from a focus of "what's wrong" to "what's right," the conference and course will explore why Christians affirm that it is good to be human.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 1000 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** Required writing assignments:
 - Outlines or summaries to aid class conversation (40%)
 - A final paper (15 pages): 40%
- **Other:** Class participation: 20%

Required Texts:

1. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, trans. Maria Boulding. New City Press, 2002. 978-1565481541.
2. M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being*. Fortress Press, 2009. 978-0800662745.
3. Irenaeus of Lyon, *The Scandal of the Incarnation: Irenaeus Against the Heresies*, selected and introduced by Hans Urs von Balthasar. Ignatius, 1990. 978-0898703153. **To be read for the first class.**
4. Gilbert Meilaender, *Should We Live Forever?: The Ethical Ambiguities of Aging*. Eerdmans, 2013. 978-0802868695.
5. Nancey Murphy and Warren S. Brown, *Did My Neurons Make Me Do It?: Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Morality and Free Will*. Oxford University Press, 2009. 978-0199568239.