

**THEO 60649 CATHOLIC SEXUAL TEACHING: SOURCES AND ISSUES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**  
**Summer 2015 -Master of Arts Program**  
**Session 3 July 6 to 24**  
**M-F 8:30-11:00 320 Malloy Hall**

**INSTRUCTOR:** John Grabowski, Ph.D. Office: TBA. Office Hours: T/TH 11:00-12:30, and by appointment. Office Phone: TBA. Cell Phone: 301-514-2339. E-mail: [grabowski@cua.edu](mailto:grabowski@cua.edu).

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course aims to engage students with the sources of Catholic moral teaching reflected in the part III of the CCC: scripture, the nature of the human person, the vocation to beatitude, freedom, virtue, and the liturgy. These will be applied to a range of issues of contemporary sexual ethics (treated in the Catechism under the rubric of the sixth commandment): lust, pornography, masturbation, extramarital sex, prostitution, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual violence, reproductive technologies, same sex attraction and relationships, and responsible parenthood. Particular attention will be given to issues of sexual equality, the need for an adequate theological anthropology, the interface between Catholic social and sexual teaching, and how one “teaches” a virtue-based approach to sexuality. Readings will include primary sources from the Church’s theological tradition, a sampling of some recent works in sexual ethics, and selections from Church documents (including the CCC, Pope John Paul II’s “theology of the body” catecheses, and the USCCB’s pastoral letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To familiarize students with foundational sources of the Church’s sexual teaching and key aspects of their historical development.
2. To examine recent cultural shifts in the U.S. and internationally which have impacted thought and practice in the area of sexuality.
3. To consider the range and complexity of issues in contemporary sexual ethics and ways in which the Church has and has not responded adequately to them.
4. To consider recent Church documents, particularly the “Theology of the Body” catecheses of Saint John Paul II and the USCCB’s *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan* , as models for a renewed catechesis in the area of sexuality in the post-conciliar era.
5. To help students deepen their own knowledge of issues of sexual ethics and the challenges for effective catechesis in this area.

**FORMAT:** The format of the course will be primarily lecture but student contributions and class discussion are welcome and encouraged.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at all class meetings is expected. Unexcused absences, whether the instructor is notified or not, will affect the final grade.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades will be assigned in accord with the section on “Final Grades” for graduate students available on the Registrar’s website (see <http://registrar.nd.edu/students/gradefinal.php>). The final grade will be based on the following:

### **Class Participation - 10% of course grade.**

This involves: regular and punctual attendance, careful preparation of assigned readings, contributions to and respectful interaction with others in class discussion.

### **Weekly Response Papers - 50% of course grade**

Students will be required to turn in two 2 page papers per week, responding to the prompts on the schedule below. The choice of specific topics is up to the discretion of the student (based on personal interest and schedule considerations). Papers are due in class (as hard copies) on the day on which the topic and readings related to it will be discussed in class. Late work will be downgraded. Papers should be typed and written in prose form (vs. bullets or outlines). While these are not meant to be formal research papers (e.g., footnotes are unnecessary), students should clearly engage the topic, articulate their own position where appropriate, and support their views with relevant ideas and citations from the assigned readings (references may be given briefly in parentheses). Excessive grammatical and stylistic problems or typos which affect the clarity of the paper’s ideas will affect their evaluation.

### **Exam 1 - 20% of final grade**

This exam will last 90 minutes and will be given on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Exam 2 - 20% of final grade**

This exam will last 90 minutes and will be given on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. It is not cumulative and therefore will cover only the second half of the course.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Any modern, critical translation of the Bible (e.g., NABRE, Jerusalem, RSV, NRSV, NIV). Augustine, *The Good of Marriage in Fathers of the Church*, vol. 15 (on reserve in the library and available at <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1309.htm>).

\*John Grabowski, *Sex and Virtue*. Washington: CUA Press, 2003. ISBN: 0813213460. (SV)

\**Leaving and Coming Home: New Wineskins for Catholic Sexual Ethics*. David Cloutier, ed. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010. ISBN: 1608990915 (LACH)

\*USCCB. *Love and Life in the Divine Plan*. Washington: USCCB, 2010. ISBN: 160137092X

\**Women, Sex and the Church: A Case for Catholic Teaching*. Erika Bachiochi, ed. Boston: Pauline, 2010. ISBN: 0819883204. (WSC).

\**Texts recommended for purchase by students.*

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Libreria Editrice Vaticana; 2000.

Paul VI, Encyclical Letter, *Humanae vitae*. Available at:

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html)..

John Paul II, *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology Of The Body*. Michael Waldstein (ed.) ISBN: 0819874213. (**ToB**)

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, selections from Vols. 1, 2 & 3 of the Benziger edition (in T/P reading room and available at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1.htm> [vol1]; <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/3.htm> [vol. 2]; and <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/5.htm>).

Other short readings will be made available on reserve or electronically (**E**).

## SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS: REVISED

(Assignments should be completed on the class date on which they are listed.)

### Mon - July 6 Course Introduction/The Council and the Renewal of Moral Theology/ Catechesis & Sexuality

Required: *SV*, pp. ix-xvi.  
*CCC*, ## 1-25

### Tues – July 7 The “Crisis” of Sexuality in the U.S. and in the Church

Required : *SV* pp. 1-22.  
*Humanae vitae*, nos. 7-12, 14-18  
J.A. Selling, “Magisterial Teaching on Marriage 1880-1986: Historical Consistency or Radical Development” (**E**)  
Peter Marin, “A Revolution’s Broken Promises” (**E**)  
Mary Eberstadt, “The Vindication of *Humanae Vitae*” (**E**)

--Is it fair to say that there is a crisis affecting sex and marriage in the U.S.? If so, what are its sources? If not, explain why.

--Was *Humanae vitae* a prophetic or a reactionary document? Explain.

### Weds – July 8 Sex and the Scriptures: Biblical Interpretation/Genesis Creation Accounts/Sex & the Old Testament

Required: *SV*, pp. 23-41, 96-105.  
Michael Lawler, “Marriage in the Bible (OT)” (**E**)  
Paul Mankowski, S.J. “Fertility, Celibacy and the Biblical Vindication of Marriage” (**E**)

--Why does understanding marriage as a covenant open up a biblical understanding of sex and sexual ethics?

--In what way do the scriptures offer a “curriculum in fecundity”? What does such a curriculum offer to our own culture?

### Thurs - July 9 Sex and the Early Church

Required: *SV*, pp. 41-65, 71-78, 105-7.  
Lawler, “Marriage in the Bible” (NT) (**E**)

Augustine, *On the Good of Marriage*

- Do New Testament "household codes" affirm or deny the equality of men and women?
- What are the goods of marriage according to Augustine and how do they provide a framework for his sexual ethic?

**Fri - July 10 Sex in the Medieval and Modern Periods of the Church**

- Readings: *SV*, pp. 78-85  
*Summa Theologiae*, I, QQ. 92, 98-99; II-II, QQ. 151, 153; Sup. QQ. 41, 49, 64.  
May, Boyle, and Lawler, "Sex in the Catholic Tradition" (E)

- What are the sources of Aquinas's teaching on sexual ethics?
- How do medieval and modern developments lay a foundation for what Pope Paul VI would later describe as the unitive meaning of the conjugal act?

**Mon – July 13 John Paul II and the ToB: Assessments, Method, Foundations**

- Required: Cloutier and Mattison III, "Bodies Poured Out in Christ," *LACH*, pp. 206-25.  
*ToB*, nos. 5-11, 20-21 (pp. 146-73, 204-14)  
Luke Timothy Johnson, "A Disembodied Theology of the Body" (E)  
Recommended: John S. Grabowski, "The Luminous Excess of the Acting Person" (E)

- Describe John Paul II's use of scripture in his catechetical method. Is it effective?
- Do the theology of the body catecheses present an overly romanticized presentation of love and sex?

**Tues – July 14 John Paul II and the ToB: The Triptych**

- Required: *ToB*, nos. 12, 24-26, 89, 99-101  
(pp. 173-77, 225-38, 472-75, 514-25)  
Ronald Modras, "Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body" (E)  
Cathleen Kaveny, "What Women Want: Buffy the pope, and the new feminists" (E)  
Recommended: *Mulieris dignitatem*, no. 24.

- How would you characterize John Paul II's use of experience in the ToB catecheses? Does he ignore the experience of certain groups or persons?
- What is John Paul II's view of authority in the marriage relationship? How does this develop the Catholic understanding of the equality of the sexes.

**Weds – July 15 Exam 1/ The Person and Sexuality, "Gender"**

- Required: *SV*, pp. 107-111, 140-42.  
Lisa Sowle Cahill, "Accent on the Masculine" (B)  
*CCC*, ## 2331-2336  
Recommended: Benedict XVI, "Address to the Roman Curia" (Christmas 2012) (E)  
Christopher Roberts, "A Theologically Premised Theory of Sexual Difference" *LACH*, pp. 250-269.

- What are the implications of understanding "gender" as a social construct either in part or in whole?

**Thurs – July 16 The Person and Sexuality, Gender, Feminist Perspectives on Sexuality (Old & New)/ Understanding Transgender and Intersexed Persons/ Chastity and Christian States of Life**

- Required: Laura Garcia, “Authentic Freedom and Equality in Difference,” *WSC*, pp. 15-33.  
Erika Bachiochi, “The Uniqueness of Women: Church Teaching on Abortion,” *WSC*, pp. 37-55  
Elizabeth Schlitz, “Dueling Vocations,” *WSC*, pp. 161-78.  
*CCC*, ## 2337-2350, 2360-2365
- Recommended: Sara Butler, “Embodied Ecclesiology” *WSC*, pp. 143-59.

--What is the best way to account to account for both equality and difference in speaking about the sexes?  
--Is fertility a burden or a blessing for women in their quest for equality in Church and society?

**Fri – July 17 Chastity and the Person: Lust, Pornography, Masturbation, “Hooking-up,”**

- Required: *SV*, pp. 85-95, 111-16  
*ToB*, no. 79 (pp. 432-36).  
Maria Morrow, “Pornography and Penance,” *LACH*, pp. 62-84.  
Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman, “In Control?” *LACH*, pp.47- 61  
Julie Hanlon Rubio, “The Practice of Sex in Christian Marriage,” *LACH*, pp. 226-249.  
*CCC*, ## 2351-2354
- Recommended: Jason King “A Theology of Dating for a Culture of Abuse” *LACH*, pp. 29- 46.

--What is the essence of the distortion of others created by consuming pornography?  
--Why does the practice of “hooking-up” undermine a person’s ability to form long term committed relationships?

**Mon – July 20 Chastity and the Person: Cohabitation, Prostitution, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse, Clerical Sexual Misconduct/ Fertility and the Person: Reproductive Technologies**

- Required: *SV*, pp. 116-135  
*ToB*, nos. 39, 60-61 (pp. 282-86, 364-70).  
Cassandra Hough, “The Fullness of Sexuality: Church Teaching on Premarital Sex,” *WSC*, pp. 57- 77.  
David McCarthy, “Cohabitation and Marriage” *LACH*, pp. 119-143.  
Katie Elrod with Paul Carpentier, “The Church’s Best Kept Secret: Church Teaching on Infertility Treatment,” *WSC*, pp. 121-40.  
*CCC*, ## 2355-2356

--What is the difference between cohabitation and marriage besides a Church ceremony?  
--What difference does it make to view infertility as a symptom rather than a disease?

**Tues – July 21 Fertility and the Person: Same Sex Attraction & “Same Sex Marriage”**

- Required: *SV*, pp. 135-40.  
Michael Hannon, “Against Heterosexuality” (E)  
Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., “Understanding Sexual Orientation as

*Habitus*” *LACH*, pp. 101-118.  
*ToB*, nos. 13-14 (pp. 177-85)  
Stephen J. Pope, “Same-Sex Marriage: Threat or  
Aspiration?” (E)  
*CCC*, ## 2357-2359

--What difference does it make to understand sexual attraction/orientation as malleable vs. fixed?  
--Is “same-sex marriage” a legitimate aspiration for members of society and the Church?

**Weds – July 22 Fertility and the Person: Contraception vs. NFP, NFP as a Practice**

Required: Florence Caffrey Bourg, “Multi-Dimensional Marriage vocations and Responsible Parenthood,” *LACH*, pp. 147-72.  
Angela Franks, “The Gift of Female Fertility: Church Teaching on Contraception,” *WSC*, pp. 97-119.  
*SV*, pp. 142-154.  
*ToB*, nos. 122-123 (pp. 628-633)  
*CCC*, ## 2366-2379

Recommended: Michel Therrien, “The Practice of responsible Parenthood, NFP, and the Covenantal Unity of the Spouses,” *LACH*, pp. 173-205.

--Is there a moral difference between natural and artificial means of birth regulation?  
--What difference does it make to consider NFP as a “practice” rather than a “method”?

**Thurs – July 23 Questions in Sexual Ethics/ Catholic Social and Sexual Teaching**

Required: *SV*, pp. 140-42.  
Jennifer Roback Morse, “The Liberation of Lifelong Love,” *WSC*, pp. 79-96.  
Erika Bachiochi, “Reflections on the Kinship between Catholic Sexual and Social Teaching,” *WSC*, pp. 179-92.

--Why is it important to face the unanswered questions and “loose ends” in Catholic sexual teaching?  
--How do Catholic social and sexual teaching reinforce one another?

**Fri – July 24 Exam 2/ Course Conclusion: Catechesis and Moral Formation in Sexuality**

Required: *SV*, pp. 140-42, 155-68.  
*Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*