



Course Code: EDPA 593

Course Title: Philosophical Basis of Moral Education

Semester: Winter 2022

Course Dates: January 24, 2022 – April 18, 2022 (Final Papers due April 18, 2022)

Credits: 3

Class Location: Online

Class Time: Asynchronous

Except First Meeting Online in D2L - Monday, January 24th 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Pre-Requisites: None

Note: Restricted to students enrolled in one of the Religious Educator Programs for Catholic Teachers and Administrators.

Instructor: Elisabeth MacDonald

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Instructor available through email and online through the course D2L messaging system.

Course Description:

A study of the educational implications of the following concepts: faith and moral values, the distinctiveness of a Christian morality and moral development. The course will include a critical appraisal of current moral development theories from a Christian viewpoint. Special emphasis will be placed on conscience and decision making. Some areas of current Christian moral concern will be explored.

This is an online course using the St. Mary's University D2L platform. Access to D2L courses can be found at <https://learn.stmu.ca/d2l/home>

Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate understanding of morality and moral development from the Catholic perspective.
2. Critically analyze a current moral development theory/moral education model from this perspective.
3. Demonstrate and apply understanding of the role of conscience in moral decision-making.
4. Integrate and apply learnings in the development of a personal philosophy of moral education relevant to Catholic schools and/or families.

Texts:

- Keenan, James. *Moral Wisdom*. 3rd ed. Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.
- Benedict XVI, Pope. *Deus Caritas Est – God is Love*. Vatican: The Holy See. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2005. (**Available online** and in pdf format from the Vatican website.)
- Catholic Church. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1993. (**Available online** from the Vatican website.)
- Francis, Pope. *Amoris Lætitia – The Joy of Love - Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation*. Vatican: The Holy See. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2016. (**Available online** and in pdf format from the Vatican website.)

- John Paul II, Pope. *Veritatis Splendor – The Splendor of the Truth*. Vatican: The Holy See. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1993. (**Available online** and in pdf format from the Vatican website.)
- Bible - The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) although any approved version okay
- Additional readings will be provided **online** by the instructor.

Recommended Additional Readings:

The following are recommended as they provide supportive background reading for topics covered in this course. They are entirely optional, however, as the provided weekly readings will be sufficient for meeting the course objectives.

- Brooks, David. *The Road to Character*. Random House, 2016.
- Congregation for the Clergy. *General Directory for Catechesis*. Vatican: The Holy See. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997. (**Available online** and in pdf format from the Vatican website. Also available in print from CCCB, Concacan Inc. Ottawa.)
- Groome, Thomas H. *Will There Be Faith? A New Vision for Educating and Growing Disciples*. Harper Collins, 2011.
- Knox, Ian. *Theology for Teachers*. Rev. Ed. Novalis, 1999.
- Lawler, Ronald, Joseph Boyle and William E. May. *Catholic Sexual Ethics: A Summary, Explanation, & Defense*. 2nd Ed. Our Sunday Visitor, 1998.
- Leonard, Richard. *What Does It All Mean? A Guide to Being More Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving*. Paulist Press, 2017.
- Lickona, Thomas. *Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility*. Bantam Books, 1992.
- Miner, Matthew. *Made by God, Made for God: Catholic Morality Explained*. Ascension Press, 2021.
- National Office of Religious Education of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. *In Search of the Good: A Catholic Understanding of Moral Living*. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Publications Service. Ottawa, 2004.
- Vozzola, Elizabeth. *Moral Development – Theory and Applications*. Routledge, 2014.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Note: Schedule is tentative and may be changed at the instructor's discretion.

Week #	Dates	Topic
1	Jan. 24 - 31	What is Moral?
2	Jan. 31 - Feb. 7	Above All - Charity
3	Feb. 7 – 14	Conscience and the Call to Grow
4	Feb. 14 - 21	Freedom & Sin
5	Feb. 21 – 28	Suffering
6	Feb. 28 - Mar. 7	Essay Work – no postings
7	Mar. 7 – 14	The Ten Commandments
8	Mar. 14 – 21	Jesus & The Beatitudes
9	Mar. 21 – 28	Mercy and Virtues
10	Mar. 28 – April 4	Moral Development Theories
11	April 11 - 18	Moral Education Models
12	April 18	Final Papers Due

Evaluation:

There are 3 major components of learning in this course:

- a) ***50%: Online discussion** based on responses to instructor and student postings. Each week you will be asked to participate in the online discussions. The discussions are critical in an online course because they are the place where you interact with other students and the instructor around specific questions and issues raised in our reading and course assignments and particularly about links that you see between our readings and your own personal and teaching contexts. (50%: 10 weeks @ 5%/week. See NOTE below.)
- b) **25%: Essay** 5 – 6 pages in length (due Monday, March 7th, 2022)
This will be a critical analysis of a current topic, issue or concern related to Catholic moral teachings with application to education. Students can choose their own topic to explore and should reference at least three sources (including course resources) in discussion of their position. Excellent essays will demonstrate critical thinking with appropriate sources referenced.
- c) **25%: Final paper** – Personal Philosophy of Moral Education: 5 - 6 pages in length (due Monday, April 18, 2022)
This is a personal articulation of one's philosophy of moral education with clear application to Catholic schools and/or families. It should contain some integration of significant learnings in this course, and include a critical appraisal of at least one moral/character education model. It is highly recommended that students keep a journal throughout this course to draw upon for this final paper.

***NOTE: If there is insufficient student enrollment for reasonable discussions, component a) above will be revised to 10 weekly one-page written responses to readings @ 5% per week for a total of 50% of the final grade.**

Grade Determination:

Grade	Grade Point	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0	Excellent	97+
A	4.0		93-96
A-	3.7		90-92
B+	3.3	Good	87-89
B	3.0		83-86
B-	2.7		80-82
C+	2.3	Satisfactory	77-79
C	2.0		73-76
C-	1.7		70-72
D+	1.3	Minimal Pass	67-69
D	1.0		60-66
F	0	Fail	<60

Note: a C- grade is the minimum grade required for a course to qualify as a prerequisite.

Late assignments and postings:

Please make every effort to submit assignments on time. If there are special circumstances (illness, family emergency) that require special consideration, please email the instructor as soon as you can to request a reasonable extension of the deadline. Note that the final paper due date needs to be adhered to as marks will be due.

Intellectual Honesty:

Academic honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and St. Mary's University insists on academic honesty in scholarship. Knowledge is cumulative, growing on the basis of previous knowledge, so we are all beholden to others for their contributions. In the course of scholarship, these contributions are reflected upon, critically analyzed and used as the foundation for further knowledge. Scholarship and academic honesty demand that these contributions be acknowledged and not passed off as products of one's own thought. Two major categories of academic misconduct are plagiarism and cheating.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence that involves presenting work in a course as if it were the result of one's own study and investigation when, in fact, it is the work of someone else. Plagiarism takes place when:

- an essay or other work is copied from another source and submitted as one's own
- parts of a work, including words, ideas, images or data, are taken from a source without acknowledgement of the originator
- work presented for one course is also submitted for another course without prior agreement of the instructors involved
- another person prepares the work that is submitted as one's own
- substantial editorial or compositional assistance from another person is received on work that is submitted as one's own

Cheating

Cheating is also a very serious academic offence. Cheating on examinations, assignments and/or labs may take a number of forms, including:

- tampering or attempting to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades or class records
- obtaining unauthorized assistance from anyone during the course of an examination
- impersonating another student during examinations
- falsifying or fabricating lab reports
- communicating with other students during an examination
- bringing unauthorized written material or electronic devices to an examination
- possessing, distributing, or attempting to possess or distribute unauthorized material in respect to examinations
- attempting to read the examination papers of other students
- deliberately exposing one's own examination papers to another student

Intellectual Property

Course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright law and by University policy. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may also share those materials with another student who is registered and enrolled in this course.

You may not reproduce, distribute or display (post/upload) course materials in any other way without my express written consent. You also may not allow others to do so. If you do so, you may be subject to academic misconduct proceedings outlined below.

Similarly, you own the copyright in your original papers and essays. If I am interested in posting your answers or papers on the course web site, I will ask for your written permission.

Penalties for Academic Misconduct

Penalties for a first occurrence of academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the examination, assignment and/or lab and/or a failing grade in the course as determined by the course instructor. The instructor will immediately send a letter stating the particulars of the offence to the Registrar and a notation will be placed in the student's permanent file. In the event of a subsequent occurrence of academic misconduct, in any course during the student's academic tenure at St. Mary's, the Vice-President Academic will decide on appropriate disciplinary action, which may include possible expulsion from St. Mary's University. If a student is expelled, the reason for expulsion will be stated on the student's permanent academic record. All correspondence regarding acts of academic misconduct by a student will be copied to the student.

Academic Accommodations

St. Mary's University is committed to support all students in developing their academic potential. Some students face challenges that require strategies to ensure they have equal opportunities to succeed. Academic accommodations are educational practices, systems and supports designed to help students with disabilities. A disability is a functional limitation, caused by a physical or mental impairment, that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to fully participate in studies at StMU. If you have received academic accommodations in the past or would like more information, please contact Academic Accommodation Services: 403-254-3704.

Counselling Services

St. Mary's University provides counselling to all students via confidential video-call and telephone. Counselling follows a Stepped Care Model and provides students with the ability to explore their concerns through different levels of resources ranging from online self-help to individual counselling. Students can contact counselling directly to make an appointment by texting the Counsellor at the number below from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Counselling Services does not provide emergency response services - if students are in need of immediate assistance and/or are in distress, they should contact the Distress Centre at 403-266-HELP or call 911. To contact or make an appointment with the StMU Counsellor, students should text: 403-333-4292.