**MASTERS OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

**ST. NORBERT COLLEGE – NEW MEXICO PROGRAM**

**THEO 504, Christian Ethics, Spring 2019**

# DATES, TIME, AND PLACE:

**Jan. 25-26 Friday 6:30-8pm Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**February 1-2 Friday 6:30-8pm Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Feb. 15-16 Friday 6:30-8pm Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**March 1-2 Friday 6:30-9pm Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

SANTA MARIA DE LA VID ABBEY

Library Seminar Room 5825

Coors Blvd. SW

Albuquerque, NM 87121-6700

Phone: (505) 873-4399

# INSTRUCTORS:

Rev. Frank Yates, D. Min. Rev. Stephen A. Gaertner, O. Praem., Ph.D.

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Office Hours: By Appointment Office Hours: By Appointment

# REQUIRED TEXTS:

**Reading (complete):**

Richard Gula, *Reason Informed by Faith: Foundations of Catholic Morality,* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1998. James M. Gustafson, *Christ and the Moral Life*, University of Chicago Press, 2008.

# Selected reading/reference (specific sections will be denoted; all available online at the Vatican website):

*Catechism of the Catholic Church* *Gaudium et Spes*

*Humanae Vitae Laetitia Amoris Laudato Si’ Populorum Progressio Rerum Novarum*

# COURSE DESCRIPTION. THEO 504 CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Christian Ethics will examine the foundations of Christian Ethics and Catholic Moral Theology. The study will include the development of a method consistent with the role of a disciple of Jesus and attempt to apply the method to specific issues such as nuclear war, bioethical issues and economic and racial social justice.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES:

* To examine the nature of Christian Ethics and Catholic Moral Theology in its methodology, structure and purpose as a discipline.
* To consider specific issues by the standard of the Gospel and human reason.
* To develop an historically informed understanding of the differences between Protestant Ethics and Roman Catholic Moral Theology.
* To become conversant with the major ethical issues which confront contemporary Christianity.
* To develop abilities for critical thinking, constructive dialogue, theological research and theological expression appropriate to graduate level study.

# COURSE GRADING:

The class will be conducted as a seminar and all students are expected to make constructive contributions. Course grades will be based on the quality of the student’s summary and three

reflection papers (30%), class presentations (5%), attendance and participation (10%), midterm exam (20%), and the final research paper (35%). Each of these components is described below under assignments.

**THREE REFLECTION PAPERS (30%)**

Each student will bring to the first , second, and third class sessions, a three page reflection

paper on the assigned reading. The student will reflect on the assigned reading and the implications of this reading for one’s own Christian ethical insights.

**ONE CLASS PRESENTATIONS (5%)** each student will present a summary and analysis of a particular reading from the Gufstafson or Gula text highlighting points of significance in the texts.

**MID TERM EXAM (20%)** Each student will write a mid-term exam reflecting upon the readings and classroom discussions. This seven-page exam (typed and double spaced) will answer questions given to the students.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (10%)**

Failure to attend will compromise one’s grade. For any approved absence, assignments will be given to compensate for the reading, in-class discussion and other components that were missed.

Two absences may result in a dropped/failed course. Participation is accomplished by regular,

informed, and constructive verbal contributions throughout each class, demonstrating integration of the reading material and personal reflection.

**FINAL PAPER (35%):** 10-12 pages

The final assignment for the course is a ten to twelve-page research paper. Topics are

submitted and approved in consultation with the instructors. The *Chicago Manual of Style*

provides the standard for all St. Norbert College work. Insightful students will have been talking with

the instructors beforehand. The final paper is due April 6. To have your paper returned, provide a second copy of your paper and a 9”x12” self-addressed stamped envelope.

# DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

In accordance with St. Norbert College Policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act, any student who, due to disability, requires accommodations in order to meet the course requirements should

contact the Program Coordinator as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. It is the

responsibility of the student to request accommodations for individual learning needs. St. Norbert College and the Instructor will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodations for

students’ individual learning needs. For further information, contact the Program Coordinator of the MTS-NM Program.

# ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

The learning process succeeds only when students perform honestly on assignments and examinations. All students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code. It defines academic

honesty and sets forth the responsibilities of faculty and students in the event of alleged dishonesty.

Possible penalties for dishonesty include reduction of a grade, failure in the course, suspension, and/or dismissal. Please refer to the current *St. Norbert College Student Handbook* for the text of the Academic Honor Code.

# SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READING:

Week 1Jan. 25-26 Friday and Saturday First Reflection paper due

Please read Gufstason’s *Christ and the Moral Life,* pp. 1-149.

Please read Gula’s *Reason Informed by Faith,* pp. 1-122,

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part Three, Section One.

Week 2 Feb 1-2 Friday and Saturday Second reflection paper due

Please read Gufstason’s *Christ and the Moral Life,* pp. 150-187 Please read Gula’s *Reason Informed by Faith, pp. 123-219*,

*Humane Vitae* and *Amoris Laetitia*

Week 3 Feb. 15-16 Friday and Saturday Third reflection paper due Please read Gufstason’s *Christ and the Moral Life,* pp. 187-237

Please read Gula’s *Reason Informed by Faith*, pp. 220-282,

*Rerum Novarum* and *Gaudium et Spes*

During this class students will get the questions for their midterm exam and that exam should be brought to the March 2 class.

Week 4 March 1-2 Friday and Saturday Mid Term Paper due 3/2

Please read Gufstafson’s *Christ and the Moral Life*, pp. 238-271

Please read Gula’s *Reason Informed by Faith*, pp. 283-328,

*Populorum Progressio* and *Laudato Si’*

**[Final Papers due at Noon on April 6]**