

THEOLOGY 3: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS (ML0426)

1. language

English.

2. course contents

Coordinator: Prof. ALESSANDRO MANTINI

Year Course: 3

Semester: 1

UFC: 0

Modules and lecturers:

- THEOLOGY 3: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS (ML0428) - 0 ufc - ssd
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Prof. Alessandro Mantini

3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Fides et Ratio*, 14 September 1998 (Mandatory)

International Theological Commission, *In Search of a Universal Ethic: A New Look at the Natural Law*, Vatican City, 2009 (Mandatory).

C. Zuccaro, *Fundamental Moral Theology*, Urbaniana University Press, Vatican City, 2015, Chapters I; II (2.1-2.2); III (4.2-4.3); IV; V; VI (1, 2.1, 3. 4); VII; VIII, IX (Suggested).

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1997, *Life in Christ*, part III, sec. I and II (mandatory).

Handouts will be distributed by the professor during the lessons.

Readings are intended to be complementary and not substitutive to the contents given in class.

4. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Knowledge and understanding (Dublin 1) – Christian Faith is not simply a matter of knowing about God and his actions in history, but it is a Personal Answer to a Personal Calling from God who reveals Himself to Mankind. Cristian Faith is consequently also an invitation and an exigency to conform one's life to the Life offered by the Person of Jesus Christ to pursue the fulfillment of life and happiness on the horizon of the Truth and of Moral Good. The discovery of God's goodness calls for a conversion to the image and likeness to this Goodness. Man, his existence, and his actions are equally important to theology. After the basic foundations of the previous module about the Christian understanding of man's being, this module develops the reflection on his actions and morality. Furthermore, the Personal Revelation of God in history as Logos (Reason and Love), opens a confident approach to reality and its comprehensibility. This course will also set some basis for the vital relationship between Science and Theology with applications to Neuroscience, Technology, and Medicine.

Applying knowledge and understanding (Dublin 2) – Students will discover the basic Christian teachings about practical and moral life as an answer to the calling of God and relation with Him, and will enter the dynamic cross-disciplinary dialogue between Science and Theology.

Making judgements (Dublin 3) – Students are trained to learn to elaborate a judgment in the light of the rediscovery of the value and nature of conscience; they are helped to deal critically with the complexity of reality through the use of the tools of ethics enlightened by Christian Theology.,

Communication skills (Dublin 4) – Students are encouraged to reflect in a broad and interdisciplinary way, drawing on some philosophical roots relating to the development of Christian morality, to learn to argue, and think critically and based on rooted contents.

Learning skills (Dublin 5) – The lessons include the use of interactive methods and not only frontal teaching, to favor not only learning but also critical participation in the international and intercultural context. This learning is therefore based not on syncretism but argued comparison and on the enhancement of differences.

5. prerequisites

Based on the knowledge acquired in the previous module, students should be more familiar with theological language and approach and should be thus able to handle the topics which touch philosophical, theological, and anthropological areas. The proposed readings and lectures and the personal involvement of the students are those necessary efforts and practices to become acquainted with the discipline's approach.

6. TEACHING METHODS

The course will consist of traditional classroom lectures.

Knowledge and understanding – The arguments studied, though simplified, demand personal work from the students who have to follow up with readings from the recommended bibliography.

Applying knowledge and understanding – The field of application of the acquired knowledge will be the active discussions which will be opened during the lectures.

Making judgements – Given the nature of the arguments, students will have a margin for giving their own vision and judgement, having previously given proof of their understanding of the arguments exposed.

Communication skills – Students will be requested to play an active role during classroom teaching with questions and answers as well as in group discussions.

Learning skills – By the end of the lectures, students are required to prove a capacity for comprehension and expression of the main themes treated.

7. OTHER INFORMATIONS

Students who have any trouble following the lectures have to get in touch personally with the coordinating professor to agree on the integrative materials and possible solutions.

8. METHODS FOR VERIFYING LEARNING AND FOR EVALUATION

The final evaluation will be based on an oral exam in which, together with the evaluation of the comprehension and expression of the main themes treated, the student will have the possibility to explain his/her own reflections in dialogue with the professor. The oral exam aims to evaluate the student concerning the five Dublin Descriptors as previously indicated. The grade will be evaluated

out of thirty and the maximum grade (30/30 cum Laude) requires exhaustive knowledge even in the details and commendable for further elements mostly related to the ability to reason and connect the different topics of the course.

9. program

After a basic reflection on human existence, from a general (and philosophical) point of view particularly in the contemporary post-modernity era, also referring to post-humanism and trans-humanism (the actual crisis of values in the “liquid society”), the lectures will present the importance of the searching for the Truth with Faith and Reason like «two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth» (FR).

Moral experience and the religious experience will then be concretized in the encounter with the Revealed God in Jesus Christ with His novelty in the religious context. The lectures will deal with the essence and applications of Christian ethics and moral teaching based fundamentally on the understanding and the actualization of the Ten Words of God, but also on the Beatitudes which are the Christological characterization of ethics, thus showing that Christian moral theology does not arrive only to “being good”, but to being united to God in Christ.

The relations and the precious dialogue between Science and Theology, in the contemporary and re-conceptualized cross-disciplinary scientific context, will then be treated to familiarize with the subsequent new, integral, and expanded approach to reality and mostly to the Human Person.

The themes and the questions that will be treated in the lectures are:

- Post Modernity – Post Humanism – Trans Humanism and the crisis of the Reason;
- The Research for the Truth and the Expanded Reason – Faith and Reason;
- Moral experience – Religious experience – Ethics – Revelation of God in Jesus Christ;
- Conscience, Freedom and Law – the Calling of God – the Responsible and Reasonable Answer of Man;
- The meaning of Sin and the need for the Grace of God – Virtues and the Fulfillment of the Human Person;
- The Christian theological distinctive of morality: the Ten Words and the Beatitudes, the Person of Christ;
- Science and Theology: a cross-disciplinary approach with applications to Neuroscience, Technology, and Medicine.