

**THL 470-003: CONTEMPORARY THOMISTIC MORAL
THEOLOGY**

Spring 2009: W at 7:15 PM

Room: Sowa Hall 233

Credit Hours: 3.00



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., Ph.D., S.T.L.,
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I am generally in my office (Sowa 229B) or in my laboratory (Hickey 181) from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily and am easily available with a prior appointment. To make an appointment, you may call me on my telephone or email me. I'll keep Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 P.M. to 4 P.M. for drop-in appointments. I will either be in my office or in my laboratory. Please feel free to talk to me about any issue relating either to the course or to your life as a student here at Providence College.

**A PRAYER BEFORE STUDY
St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P.**

O God, Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding. Give me a keen intellect, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Give me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and perfect my work. We ask you this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This semester, we will read the major works in English translation of Fr. Servais Pinckaers, O.P., along with selections from the *Summa Theologica* of St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P., *The Meaning of Grace* by Charles Journet, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in order to better understand the major themes, major concerns, and major debates that shape contemporary moral theology in the Catholic tradition. The two questions that will focus our discussions of these readings are the following: What is moral theology? How can moral theology help us to respond to the universal call to holiness?

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P., *Summa Theologiae* (New York: Benzinger Bros., 1947). Also available online at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>
- Servais Pinckaers, O.P., *The Sources of Christian Ethics* Trans. Sr. Mary Thomas Noble, O.P. (Washington, DC: CUA Press, 1995).
- Servais Pinckaers, O.P., *The Pinckaers Reader: Renewing Thomistic Moral Theology* Ed. John Berkman and Craig Steven Titus (Washington, DC: CUA Press, 2005).
- Charles Journet, *The Meaning of Grace* (Princeton: Scepter Publishers, 1960).
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1994). Also available online at http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS:

This is a seminar/reading course in moral theology that will require extensive student preparation and participation. Please come to class ready to discuss the assigned reading assignments. This means that you should read, take notes, and think about all the assigned readings before class.

Class Discussions: Each class period on Wednesday evening will involve a student-led discussion of the assigned reading. If you are responsible for leading the class-discussion, please prepare a 1500-2000 word essay responding to an argument or a proposal taken from the assigned reading of the week that you will read aloud in class. Discussion papers are due at noon (12 PM) on the day before (Tuesday) our class. Please email your paper to all the members of the class using our ANGEL website.

Commentaries: If you are not leading the discussion for a particular week, please submit a 500-1000 word commentary on the assigned reading. In your commentary, choose one argument or point discussed in the assigned reading. Summarize the argument or point and then respond to it with this particular question in mind: How does the reading help you to respond to the universal call to holiness? I would prefer it if you handwrite your commentaries in the chapel.

Commentaries and papers will be due in class every week. NO late papers will be accepted. No exceptions! Regular attendance at each class is expected. Please email the instructor in advance if you expect to miss a class. Only one absence is permitted barring exceptional circumstances. More than one unexcused absences during the semester may lead to a final grade reduction of a full letter grade (e.g., B+ to C+).

GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Discussion Paper	40%
Commentaries	40%
Class Participation	20%

For an A, you must show that you have mastered the relevant material; you must argue clearly and critically; and you must express yourself with very few flaws. If you manage two of these feats, you will get a B. If you manage only to remember the material or only to argue clearly, expect a C. If you miss all three goals but still show some effort, you might receive a D. An F will mean you have failed to present acceptable work.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism (“the stealing and passing off of the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source”) is not tolerated in the professional world and will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism on any written submission will result in an F for that assignment. Please consult the current Providence College Undergraduate Catalogue for its statement on “Academic Honesty.”

SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

- January 21, 2009: Introduction: The Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:1-7:29
Catechism, nos. 1716-1724
- January 28, 2009: *Summa theologiae*, I-II, QQ. 1-5
- February 4, 2009: *Summa theologiae*, I-II, QQ. 55-56; 58; 62-63; 65; 68
- February 11, 2009: *Summa theologiae*, I-II, QQ. 71; 74; 109-111
- February 18, 2009: *Sources of Christian Ethics*, Chapters 1-7
- February 25, 2009: *Sources of Christian Ethics*, Chapters 8-13
- March 4, 2009: *Sources of Christian Ethics*, Chapters 14-17
Catechism, nos. 1803-1869
- March 11, 2009: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
- March 18, 2009: *The Pinckaers Reader*, Chapters 1-5
- March 25, 2009: *The Pinckaers Reader*, Chapters 6-9
- April 1, 2009: *The Pinckaers Reader*, Chapters 10-12
- April 8, 2009: NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK
- April 15, 2009: NO CLASS – MONDAY SCHEDULE
- April 16, 2009: [MAKEUP CLASS] *The Pinckaers Reader*, Chapters 13-17
- April 22, 2009: *The Pinckaers Reader*, Chapters 18-20
- April 29, 2009: *The Meaning of Grace*, Chapters 1-4
Catechism, nos. 1949-2016