Theological Ethics (7.5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle
Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology)
Course ID: 0173

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:
- give an overview of fundamental concepts and methods in Christian ethics;
- show that s/he understands the connection between different positions within Christian ethics and general theological, philosophical and ethical positions;
- show the ability to critically analyse ethical positions and argue for or against these positions in the field of Christian ethics.

Course content

Every day headlines jar us with news about profound ethical issues. All of us face moral dilemmas. But just how do we make our moral decisions? The individualism of our culture tells us that each person must decide for himself or herself. Some religious traditions stress following the law. In our course, we will consider a third approach in the Christian tradition that attempts to combine the best of both philosophical and theological perspectives. The course treats important themes in the intersection of theology (with special attention to Scripture), philosophical reflection, and human experience. We will also consider what is called "virtue ethics." Finally we will discuss topics chosen by the class, leading us to wrestle with this question: How can we oppose evil without creating new evils and being made evil ourselves?

Teaching and examination

Instruction will be in the form of lectures and discussion seminars including ethical "cases" that are discussed at the seminars. Examination includes participation in the discussions during the course as well written exams. For grades above C, an essay is also required, to be handed in at the final meeting of the course.

Bibliography

Obligatory Literature
Overberg, Kenneth R., *Conscience in Conflict* (Third Edition, 2006).
Gula, Richard M., *The Good Life. When Morality and Spirituality Converge,* Kindle Edition, 1999.
Himes, Kenneth R., *101 Questions and Answers on Catholic Social Teaching* (second edition).
Keenan, James, "Virtue Ethics" in *Christian Ethics,* ed. by Bernard Hoose.

Recommanded Literature
Mahoney, John, *The Making of Moral Theology*
Introduction to Christian Ethics: A Reader. Edited by Ronald Hamel and Kenneth Himes
Readings in Moral Theology (a series). Edited by Charles Curran and Richard McCormick, and others
McCormick, Richard, *The Critical Calling: Reflections on Moral Dilemmas Since Vatican II*
Connors, Russel & McCormick, Patrick, *Character, Choices & Community*
Patrick, Anne, *Liberating Conscience*
Farley, Margaret, *Personal Commitments*
Bernardin, Cardinal Joseph, *A Moral Vision for America*
Kammer, Fred, *Doing Faith Justice* by Fred Kammer
National Conference of Catholics Bishops of U.S., *Economic Justice for All*
Bioethics. Edited by Thomas A. Shannon (fourth edition)
Lamoreux, Patricia & Wadell, Paul, *The Christian Moral Life: Faithful Discipleship for a Global Society*
Gula, Richard, *Reason Informed by Faith*
Gustafson, James, *Protestant and Roman Catholic Ethics*

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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