

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
— Indianapolis —®
Marian's Adult Programs

THL 216: Moral Issues

Course Description:

Moral Issues is the study of moral Theology in relationship to current moral issues with an emphasis on the dignity of the human person, formation of conscience, and the struggle to attain the fullness of human flourishing amidst cultural challenges. Moral issues will concentrate on a consistent ethic of life encompassing the personal, social, and spiritual dimensions. The purpose of this course is to focus on human consciousness and the process of coming to know, to value, and to cooperate with what is truly good and to resist what is evil. This is a course about you and our world, and how to be a free and loving person in that world. It attempts to respond to the age-old question: what is the best way to live one's life, and more specifically, what does the Catholic tradition have to do with the way we live our lives.

Course Materials:

Refer to the MAP website (www.marian.edu/MAP) for specific textbook and lab kit requirements.

Course Objectives:

This course fulfills the second Theology requirement for the General Education program at Marian University which is designed to provide a common foundation within the Catholic tradition. It focuses on the five areas of human development which are essential to forming the whole person and living a life of authenticity: intellectual, moral, social, physical, and spiritual. The course is designed to provide a basis so that students can develop philosophical reasoning with respect to the human person as a foundation for moral inquiry, acquire a deeper understanding of Catholic Theology, and examine moral issues in light of those truths. Thus, this course is intended to establish the start of a lifetime of study and contemplation.

General Education Goals and Objectives:

Primarily, the General Education goals and objectives for THL 216 Moral Issues are articulated in the first category, "Moral Reasoning." Secondly, the course responds to several other categories of goals and some of the objectives within those goals. The course accomplishes more than one particular goal or objective without necessarily fulfilling the requirements of the other categories of goals and objectives.

Moral Reasoning: Within the context of a Catholic University, to demonstrate an understanding of religious faith and philosophy regarding values and ethics in social and personal experience.

Specific Goals and Objectives:

1. To demonstrate knowledge of philosophical and Theological wisdom regarding questions of existence and ultimate meaning, particularly with regard to God and the human person, as informed by the Catholic tradition.
2. To demonstrate knowledge of ethical principles and moral reasoning.
3. To demonstrate an understanding of the historical and contemporary impact of Theology.
4. To demonstrate an engagement in the ongoing synthesis of faith and reason.
5. To demonstrate an appreciation of the four Franciscan Sponsorship Values: Dignity of the Individual, Responsible Stewardship, Peace and Justice, and Reconciliation.

Scientific and Quantitative Understanding:

- To demonstrate a knowledge of some of the fundamental laws of nature by which the physical and biological world operate, and to explore the relationship between these laws of nature and the living of one's own life in harmony with them and as a responsible steward of one's self, one's health, and the world.

Individual and Social Awareness:

- To recognize how the actions and thoughts of individuals are affected by and can affect their social, political, and economic milieus.

Cultural Awareness:

- To develop a foundation for the life-long process of observing and participating in the richness of the heritage of civilized humankind.

Effective Communication:

- To develop college-level proficiency in oral and written communication as a basis for constructive human interaction;
- To demonstrate effective and appropriate reading, writing, speaking and listening abilities; and
- To demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in written and oral communication.

Academic Integrity:

The search for truth, the transmission of knowledge, and the facilitation of moral development are the avowed goals of institutions of higher education around the world. Members of the Marian University community are expected to maintain the highest level of honesty in every phase of their academic lives and to help create and promote an ethical atmosphere in which the goals of the University can be fully realized. All Marian University students are responsible for knowing and avoiding academically dishonest behaviors. If you are not familiar with the guidelines, please refer to the University Code of Students' Rights and Responsibilities. <http://www.marian.edu/map/documents/studentcodebook.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

Academic Misconduct:

The Marian University guidelines for penalties and procedures will be strictly adhered to. If you are not familiar with the guidelines, please refer to the *University Code of Students' Rights and Responsibilities*. <http://www.marian.edu/map/documents/studentcodebook.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who have proper documentation must contact the Director of Academic Support Services in the Counseling and Consultation Services office to set up a documentation review. If after the review, accommodations are deemed appropriate, an accommodation plan will be developed. As per the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) no accommodations can be provided until this process is complete. Contact Marj Batic, Director of Academic Support Services (mbatic@marian.edu; (317) 955-6150) or stop by the office in Clare Hall). Note: Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should consult with the instructor as to the most appropriate procedure to follow. If there are questions regarding such a procedure, contact Ruth Rodgers, Vice President, Student Success and Engagement/Dean of Students at rrogers@marian.edu or the Director of Academic Support Services for additional information.

Soft Skills:

Students who complete the THL 216 course through Marian’s Adult Program will be able to develop and strengthen a number of skills essential for success in today’s workforce. These skills include verbal and written communication, collaboration, attention to different perspectives, leadership, and problem solving. Students engage in critical thinking and analysis through weekly written assignments. They are encouraged to articulate viewpoints about moral issues using philosophical reasoning. They collaborate with one another through weekly discussions and learn to see the value in varying viewpoints. They demonstrate leadership by taking personal responsibility for their actions, and understanding that excellence requires tireless effort and integrity. THL 216 centers on the evaluation of moral issues, but ultimately, it is a course about life. Living a good moral life, and being conscious of the many decisions one makes throughout the day and how those decisions impact others, leads to stronger families, more effective work environments, and better communities.

Evaluation Method:

Assignment:

5 Discussion Forums (one for each Module). You must post your own response to the discussion questions and

Possible Points:

15 points each;

75 points total

also respond to TWO other posts from your classmates before the deadline. (25% of final grade)

10 Reflection Papers (TWO due each week: one on text and one on articles). These should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length (Times New Roman, 12-point font, doubled-spaced). 10 points each;
100 points total
(35% of final grade)

Final Examination (a study guide will be posted in Canvas) **125 points**
(40% of final grade)

Total: **300 points**

Assessment and Evaluation Criteria:

Written assignments are meant to assess how well you have met the learning objectives of the course. Students in Theology need to demonstrate disciplined reflection and expression. For written assignments (and also essays on the Final Exam), the following rubric will be used:

Points: Requirements:

9-10 Assignment is well organized and well written; uses various sources for Theological reflection appropriately and accurately; involves coming to a position on what the Catholic understanding (meaning and significance) is, as well as of one's own position; sees how this is concretely lived, celebrated, and articulated; shows Theological vitality and some originality; follows the specific format requested for the assignment.

7-8 Assignment is clearly written with some sources appealed to and accurately employed; has an insight into the Catholic meaning, value and celebration being discussed; somewhat more mechanical than a 9-10 point paper, but still shows some Theological vitality; follows most of the specific format requested for the assignment.

- 5-6 Assignment displays an engagement in Theological reflection, though its clarity of expression is only adequate, and its use of sources and manners of interpretation are less precise; comes to a Theological position on significance and meaning with evidence, but not as convincing as a 7-8 or 9-10 point level.
- 3-4 Assignment is poorly organized and written; lacks Theological focus; ignores essential Theological sources, or misinterprets these same sources; fails to follow the format requirements of the assignment.
- 1-2 Assignment fails to meet the objectives of the assignment; fails to accurately employ sources, or to follow the specific requirements of the question, issue, or problem assigned.

Grading Scale:

A	100-94	A-	93-90		
B+	89-87	B	86-83	B-	82-80
C+	79-77	C	76-73	C-	72-70
D+	69-67	D	66-60	F	59 and below