Course Description

The Catholic Christian tradition has always given a prominent role to marriage and family yet both institutions have undergone significant changes and have been understood in quite different ways within that tradition. This course will explore key elements of a theology of marriage and family with a view to the upcoming ordinary synod on the family.

Course Objectives

- To help students understand the Catholic Christian doctrinal/theological heritage regarding marriage and family.
- To help students develop their theological skills in the interpretation of the Christian theological tradition.
- To help students evaluate the range of theological positions on several controverted issues regarding marriage and family.

Textbooks:

- The Bible (preferred translations: NRSV or New American Bible).
- Other readings will be available on the Canvas course website.

Course Methodology

This course will be taught as a mixture of lecture and class discussion.

Course Requirements

1) Class preparation/participation (20%): Students are expected to: a) attend class; b) complete all assigned readings; c) participate in class discussion.

2) Theological reflection journal (40%): Students will keep a typed, double-spaced journal in which they will reflect on lecture material and course reading by way of responding to journal prompts offered daily by the professor. It is expected that there will be at least one entry for each class day and each entry should be 300-400 words in length. The first part of your journal is to be turned in on Friday, June 26th, and the second part of your journal will be turned in on the last day of class, Thursday, July 20th. Each submission will be as a single Word file e-mailed as an attachment to: Richard.gaillardetz@bc.edu.

3) Final Reflection Paper (40%): Write a approximately 2000 word theological analysis of a popular film treating marriage and family chosen from a list provided by the instructor. Students will be expected to incorporate course material into their analysis July 6th. Send the paper as an e-mail attachment to richard.gaillardetz@bc.edu.

Course Schedule
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| June 22    | Introduction: The Cultural Context of Marriage and Family Today | David Matzko McCarthy, “Two Households”  
Rubio, 3-24 |
| June 23    | Marriage and Family in the Bible | Deut 22:13-23:1; Gen 1-3; Hos 1-3  
Mark 3:31-35, 10:2-12; Matt 5:31-2; 19:10-12; 1 Cor 7:1-17; Eph 5:21-32  
Rubio, 45-64 |
| June 24    | Marriage and Family in the Christian Tradition | Rubio, 65-86 |
| June 25    | Cont. |  |
| June 26    | Toward a Spirituality of Marriage | *Journal I due* |
Rubio, “Serving: Re-Imagining a Central Practice of Middle-Class American Life” |
|            |         | **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES** |
| June 30    | The Indissolubility of Marriage: A Pastoral Challenge | Kasper, *Gospel of the Family* |
| July 1     | Sex, Cohabitation and Marriage | Cloutier, 47-61, 119-43 |
| July 2     | Responsible Parenthood | Cloutier, 147-72  
Cristina Traina, “Papal Ideals, Marital Realities”  
*Journal II due* |