

MORAL DIMENSIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

July 16, 2018—August 2, 2018, Monday—Thursday 6:00 PM—9:00 PM

This course provides a foundational and systematic overview of the basic components of Catholic moral theology. Week 1 of this course provides an exposition and analysis of topics traditionally treated under the heading of fundamental moral theology: the relationship between discipleship and morality, spirituality and moral discernment, moral character and conscience, freedom and responsibility. Week 2 of this course focuses on moral formation through the four sources of Christian ethics (scripture, tradition, reason, and experience), with special attention to Catholic social teaching. In the pursuit of discerning and applying moral norms, Week 3 of this course will explore moral issues related to sex and gender, race and class, ecology and family life.

PRE-COURSE WORK

Read: Dean Brackley, *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times*.

Write: A 1200-1500 word moral autobiography essay that integrates 3 movements:

1. A personal reflection on the central sources of moral wisdom, as gleaned from your life experience;
2. A thoughtful response to Brackley's text that unpacks what Ignatian Spirituality adds to your understanding of the process of discernment in order to live into the moral demands of Christian discipleship;
3. An analyzation and application of the credibility and meaning of Brackley's discussion as it is relevant for your own theological, ethical, and ministerial interests. More detailed instructions will be available on Canvas.

REQUIRED READING

Dean Brackley, *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times* (Crossroad, 2004)

Patricia Lamoureux and Paul Wadell, *The Christian Moral Life* (Orbis, 2010)

Thomas Massaro, *Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action* 3rd ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015)

All other required readings will be available on Canvas.

BOSTON COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

SUMMER AT STM 2018

MARCUS MESCHER

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Marcus Mescher's approach to theology and ethics has been shaped by the content and methods of Catholic social teaching and liberation theologies, as well as nearly a decade of experience in parish youth ministry and college campus ministry. His primary areas of interest include the moral formation of young adults, the relationship between family life and the common good, the demands of solidarity and the preferential option for the poor, and ecological sustainability. Marcus' presentations and publications integrate academic and public theology, with topics ranging from liturgy to social media to moral imagination. He is currently working on his book manuscript inspired by Pope Francis' emphasis on building a "culture of encounter," entitled, *The Ethics of Encounter: Christian Neighbor Love as a Practice of Solidarity*, which will be published by Lexington/Fortress in 2019. Marcus is married and the father of three children

EDUCATION

B.A., Marquette University

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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