

**Loyola High School
Theology Department
Moral Theology—Spring 2008**

Course Information:

Instructor: Mr. Michael Wood

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Room: H302

Use www.loyolahs.edu for homework updates.

Course Description:

The purpose of the course is to engage in a dialectic discussion as a means to come to some basic conclusions on several of the major moral issues that need our attention. Our analysis will grow out of a combination of tools ranging from the principles of moral philosophy to our own internal reflection rooted in a faith perspective.

Necessary to this course will be the expectation that all students gain a thorough knowledge of each moral concept so to engage in a critical and productive analysis. A diverse range of opinions on each topic will be both encouraged and embraced as a means to challenge all opinions that require further development.

We will examine the sources of morality, utilize different methodological approaches, interpret complex ethical texts and look inward as we discover the frameworks of moral theology and contemporary normative problems.

This course also fulfills the (g) requirement (college preparatory course) for the University of California. The intent of the college preparatory elective requirement is to encourage prospective UC students to fill out their high school programs with courses that will meet one or more of a number of objectives:

- To strengthen general study skills, particularly analytical reading, expository writing, and oral communications
- To provide an opportunity to begin work that could lead directly into a major program of study at the University
- To experience, in some depth, new areas of academic disciplines that might form the basis for future major or minor studies at the University.

Goals:

- To demonstrate, by means of the written and spoken word, a strong use of critical thinking skills
- To form a personal opinion using appropriate evidence to support your argument
- To understand the complexities of the debates that surround the issues
- To develop personal skills that will serve as a tool for future moral dilemmas
- To avoid using emotionalism as a means to make conclusions on moral judgments
- To come to a personal position on the issues discussed based on reason and reflection

Grading:

1. Tests (Mid-Term, Final)	30%
2. Quizzes	30%
3. Homework	30%
4. Morning Reflection	5%
5. Class Participation	5%

(Second semester Seniors are exempt from the final if they earn a 90% or above)

Class Conduct:

1. **Respect is key.** Each student is to treat each other in a professional and respectful manner. Violation of this will result in immediate disciplinary action.
2. Disciplinary action might include but is not limited to expulsion from class, JUG, letters home to parents, or more severe disciplinary action.
3. **Academic integrity** will be enforced at all times. Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated. Cheating included copying the work of other students either in class or out of class.
4. There is to be no food, drink, gum or candy brought into the classroom.
5. **Tardiness** will never be acceptable unless a written note is given to me upon arrival to class. This is a matter of respect for you classmates and myself. Late students are an interruption.
6. **Class attendance** is a must. All anticipated absences must be brought to my attention before the day or days of your absence.
7. Most **late work will not be accepted.** Should reasonable circumstances arise, the student must speak to me to make arrangements immediately. This will be strictly enforced.
8. Doing work for another class during my class time is unacceptable and the student will serve that time in JUG.
9. **Active participation** is required at all class meetings. Passive attendance will result in a low participation grade and lower the quality of your experience.

Class Supplies:

1. Text Book: *Where Do You Stand* by Gregory Higgins
2. Text Book: *Taking Sides*
3. Class Handouts
4. Blue or Black Pen
5. Red Pen
6. Highlighter
7. Folder or Binder

“The Jesuit University is the life of the mind and the heart of the Gospel.”