

Course Syllabus

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MARIAN UNIVERSITY

Indianapolis

THL 216 Moral Issues 3 Credits

Semester and Year: First Five-Weeks, Summer 2025

Email: Contact via Canvas email


Students are responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this syllabus before the first day of class.

Required Textbook(s) and Films:


Keenan, S.J., James F. *Moral Wisdom: Lessons and Texts from the Catholic Tradition* (Third Edition). Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4422-4711-6.

Stivers, Laura A., Gudorf, Christine E., and Martin-Schramm, James B. *Christian Ethics: A Case Method Approach* (Fourth Edition). Orbis Books, 2012. ISBN 978-1-57075-966-6.

Film: *Babette's Feast*. Directed by Gabriel Axel. Panorama Film International, 1987.

Babette's Feast can be purchased from [Amazon](#) 
(https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00A5IXCHA?pf_rd_p=183f5289-9dc0-416f-942e-e8f213ef368b&pf_rd_r=XGJ8H2PBS4433311QVCR)

Film: *Bella*. Directed by Alejandro Gomez Monteverde. Lionsgate, 2006.

Bella can be purchased from [Amazon](#) 
(https://www.amazon.com/Bella-Eduardo-Ver%C3%A1stegui/dp/B0014BQR6U/ref=sr_1_4?crid=19V63Q5AT4THH&keywords=bella+movie&qid=1568983317&s=movies-tv&srefix=Bella+movie%2Caps%2C167&sr=1-4%C2%A0)

Bella can be purchased from
[YouTube](#) 
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK1sWRgggOE>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK1sWRgggOE>)

Bella can be purchased from [Netflix](#) → (<https://www.netflixmovies.com/bella-2006>)

Library Links for the films:

[Babette's Feast](#) → (<https://marian.kanopy.com/video/babette-s-feast>)

[Bella](#) → ([https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/marian373435/watch/2B2BB726BCC82CE9?](https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/marian373435/watch/2B2BB726BCC82CE9?referrer=direct)

[referrer=direct](#)) Please find instructions to access Bella film [here](#) →

(<https://askus.marian.edu/search/?t=0&q=stream>).

Additional Resources:

The [Mother Teresa Hacklemeier Memorial Library](#) →

(<http://www.marian.edu/library/Pages/default.aspx>) at Marian University provides various databases

- **Marian University requires all work be completed on a laptop or PC; this includes all exams and quizzes.**

Course Description

A study of moral theology in relationship to current moral issues with a particular emphasis on the dignity of the human person, conscience formation, and the struggle to live authentically in our culture. Moral issues concentrate on a consistent ethic of life encompassing the personal, social, economic, and ecological dimensions. This course partially fulfills the general education requirement in the theological and philosophical reasoning category. (SEM)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Student Learning Objectives

General Education Learning Objectives		Method of Assessment
Domain		
Specialized knowledge	G 1.a. Demonstrate the ability to articulate theological, philosophical, moral and ethical knowledge by:	

		G1.a.2. Demonstrating theological, philosophical and ethical literacy.	Case study papers, reflection papers, final exam, final reflection paper
		G1.a.4. appropriately employ theological resources and methods in theological thinking.	Discussions, reflection papers, case study papers, final exam, final reflection paper
		G1.a.6 Constructing a reasoned position on a contemporary moral issue.	Case study papers, reflection papers
Civic Learning	G 5.	G5.c. demonstrates an engagement with current events in the context of social justice.	Case study papers, reflection papers, discussions
Faith, Ethics, and Foundations of Thought	G 6.	G6.c. Explain the relationship between morality and ethical behavior within an ecumenical and interreligious context, specifically, the context of Christianity, Catholicism and Franciscanism.	Reflection papers, case study papers, discussions, final exam, final reflection paper
		G6.d. Demonstrate an understanding of the 4 Franciscan values rooted in prayer: dignity of the individual, peace and justice, responsible stewardship, and reconciliation.	Discussions, case study papers, reflection papers, final reflection paper
		G6.f. Demonstrate an understanding of Christian accounts of the human person and their impact on human action, moral dispositions, and human fulfillment.	Final exam, case study papers, reflection papers, discussions, final reflection paper

Course-specific Goals

	Method of Assessment
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<i>Hoping to engender philosophical and theological reasoning, scientific, social, civic, and cultural awareness, and effective and critical communication, this course specifically aims:</i>	
1. [c.f. G6.c.] Explain the relationship between morality and ethical behavior within an ecumenical and interreligious context, specifically, the context of Christianity, Catholicism and Franciscanism;	Discussions, final exam, reflection papers, case study papers, final reflection paper
1. [c.f. G1.a6.] Constructing a reasoned position on a contemporary moral issue;	Reflection papers, case study papers
1. Understanding the moral wisdom contained within the biblical tradition and Christian community;	Reflection papers, discussions, case study papers, final reflection paper
1. Articulating a critical and examined approach to understanding one's own worth, the worth of others, and the importance of social commitment, especially in and through classroom participation;	Discussions, final reflection paper
1. Reflecting, in thought, speech, and writing, upon the relevance of the aforementioned objectives to contemporary matters of business, economics, violence/nonviolence, healthcare, sexuality, family, ecology, race, gender, and politics.	Discussions, case study papers, final reflection paper

Transformational Journey Program Learning Objectives

Objective	Method of Assessment
1. Cultural and Global Awareness - Criterion C: Evaluate a contested issue from multiple perspectives.	<i>Final Deliverable</i>

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understanding the moral wisdom contained within the biblical tradition and Christian community;
2. articulating the values of community, solidarity, and human dignity present within the Judeo-Christian tradition;
3. contextualizing the origins and relevance of ethical ideas, based on both first-world and developing world contexts.
4. articulating a critical and examined approach to understanding one's own worth, the worth of others, and the importance of social commitment, especially in and through class participation;
5. appreciating the distinctions and similarities in the moral thought of several branches of Christianity;
6. appreciating basic elements of Jewish and Islamic moral thought and their consonance with Christian and secular ethical principles;
7. reflecting, in thought, speech, and writing, upon the relevance of the aforementioned objectives to contemporary matters of business, economics, violence/nonviolence, healthcare, sexuality, family, ecology, race, gender, and politics;
8. expressing, in thought, speech, and writing, his or her evolving understanding of life's meaning and purpose, in light of his/her evolving understanding of life's meaning and purpose, life values, and traditions.

Teaching Strategies

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.

Assignments & Assessment Methods:

Methods of Evaluation

Writing component. Each week you will have THREE written assignments. Your work must be typewritten in Standard English (i.e., proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar). Please use Times New Roman, 12-point font, doubled-spaced.

1. Reflection Paper on Keenan text: (1 ½ to 2 pages in length, or 400-500 words). This paper will be a reflection on the assigned textbook readings. You must include two to three main themes of the readings and demonstrate how you understand those themes. Make sure to *address each chapter that is assigned*. **[10 points]**
2. Reflection Paper on the Assigned Articles: (1 ½ to 2 pages in length, or 400-500 words). This paper will be a reflection on the articles assigned for each week. Please include two to three main themes of the readings and demonstrate how you understand and react to those themes. **[10 points]**
3. Analytical Paper on the assigned case study in Stivers et al. (1 ½ to 2 pages in length, or 400-500 words). This will be a position paper on the assigned case study for each class. The paper must include your statement of the problem, a beginning solution to the dilemma and the moral reasoning that grounds your position. These papers must reflect the commentary that follows each case. These are **not feelings** papers but reasoned analysis incorporating the principles of moral theology that have been presented in the course. **[10 points]**

Discussion component. The class is conducted in a collaboration style, so your participation through questioning, debating, and discussing is crucial. Thorough preparation for each Discussion Forum is absolutely necessary and your insight is important to the quality of the discussion. Several Modules have two discussions each, some modules have only one. Be sure to check each Module carefully. **[15 points per discussion]**

Exam component. You will take a Final Examination on Week 5 of the course. The exam will test your ability to read critically and to demonstrate your understanding through writing. It will be a combination of both objective (multiple choice) and subjective (short answer/essay) questions. A study guide will be posted in Canvas. **[100 points]**

Final Reflection Paper component. You will write a Final Reflection Paper, to be submitted by the end of Week 4 of the course. Based on what you have read and learned in THL 216, you will write a

personal philosophy that explains the principles you wish to live by, what you consider to be your life's purpose, and what virtues and/or habits you need to develop. Detailed instructions will be found in Module 4. **[25 points]**

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Possible points</u>
8 Discussion Forums (either one or two for each Module). You must post your own response to the discussion questions and also respond to TWO other posts from your classmates before the deadline.	15 points each 120 points total (20% of final grade)
8 Reflection Papers (TWO due in weeks 1,2, 3 and 5: one on the Keenan text and one on assigned articles). These should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length (Times New Roman, 12-point font, doubled-spaced).	10 points each 80 points total (20% of final grade)
5 Analytical Papers (ONE due each week) on assigned case studies in Stivers et al., one per Module. These should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length, Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced.	10 points each 50 points total (20% of final grade)
Final Examination	100 points total (30% of final grade)
Final Reflection Paper due in Week 4	25 points total (10% of final grade)

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

Course Policies:

Late Policy & Due Date Extensions:


Assignments will close for submission 72 hours after the due date. Any assignment submitted late in that 72 hour time period will receive a 10% late penalty. For any final exam, paper, etc. that is due the last day of the term/session, the 72-hour late policy does not apply past the date the term or session ends. Late initial posts in discussion boards will receive a 2-point deduction in the rubric.

Further extensions and accommodations, including exams, may be given consideration for unforeseen, documented hardships, such as medical emergencies, documentable technical issues, death of a loved one, travel and weather emergencies, etc. However, simply forgetting, time zone differences, going on vacation, or not performing as well as intended are not acceptable excuses. If you believe an extension or accommodation is warranted, please contact your instructor.




Exam Retakes: Exams retakes are different than requesting and being granted an extension on an exam. There are no exam retakes allowed in this course. Once you open an exam, you're stating that you have prepared adequately for the exam and you're accepting the results of the exam.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit in this course.


Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another as your own without giving credit to the source author. This also includes taking a paper found online and submitting it as one's own paper and/or cutting and pasting from a website and submitting it as your work product.

Plagiarism is defined in detail in the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](https://www.marian.edu/docs/default-source/campus-life/codeofstudentrightsandresponsibilities.docx?sfvrsn=14)  (<https://www.marian.edu/docs/default-source/campus-life/codeofstudentrightsandresponsibilities.docx?sfvrsn=14>) under Section 8: Academic Conduct Procedures, as well as an extended description of academic dishonesty.

The following are some helpful websites for understanding plagiarism, documentation and citation:

- Marian University's library: <https://www.marian.edu/current-students/library>  (<https://www.marian.edu/current-students/library>)
- Plagiarism.org: <https://plagiarism.org/>  (https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://plagiarism.org/_;!!DUogwUQ!T_yXRW2Aa1Gbx09gkwJ_Q3X0PNE2K)
- Purdue OWL: <https://owl.purdue.edu/>  (https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://owl.purdue.edu/_;!!DUogwUQ!T_yXRW2Aa1Gbx09gkwJ_Q3X0PNE2K)

Adherence to Academic Integrity & Use of AI and Chat GPT

At Marian University, all students are called to uphold academic integrity in all their academic endeavors, including the responsible use of AI tools, reflecting both the institution's commitment to intellectual and moral integrity and its foundational Franciscan values. Students are expected to exemplify honesty, honor, and respect for the truth, demonstrating their intellectual and moral integrity as outlined in the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](https://www.marian.edu/docs/default-source/campus-life/codeofstudentrightsandresponsibilities.docx?sfvrsn=14) 

https://www.marian.edu/academics/_assets/_documents/student-code-of-rights-and-responsibilities.pdf).

By embodying these

responsibilities, students contribute to a just and flourishing academic community. Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if that use is properly documented and credited. For example, text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI.

<https://chat.openai.com/> 

https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://chat.openai.com/_;!!CSKv4JNZfdoHTMmavA!hmdhbh3zGh5YhdutTvcz

" Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation

convention. Decisions are at the discretion of the instructor, so students are encouraged to communicate with their instructors.

Accommodation/Accessibility Statement: Marian University, through policy and practice, is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience, or anticipate experiencing, barriers to your education due to a disability please contact the Personalized Learning Center by emailing plc@marian.edu (<mailto:plc@marian.edu>) or calling **317.955.6540** to start a conversation.

Although a student may request an accommodation at any time, it is best to initiate the accommodation process as early as possible as it may take time to complete the interactive process and accommodations will not be implemented retroactively. If a reasonable accommodation is determined, a Course Accommodation Letter will be created at the Personalized Learning Center for the student to provide to their faculty members with information related to their accommodations. Faculty will not set up disability-related accommodations without a current semester Course Accommodation Letter.

Faculty, Staff or Student questions or concerns regarding the accommodation process can be sent to plc@marian.edu (<mailto:plc@marian.edu>) or Mandie Greiwe, agreiwe@marian.edu (<mailto:agreiwe@marian.edu>), Director of the Personalized Learning Center.

Diversity & Inclusion Statement: Marian's Adult and Online Programs (MAP) at Marian University is a collaborative academic community committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community across the intersections of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability status, socio-economic background, political perspective, culture, immigration status, and national origin. Online programs is committed to creating a safe and just environment of respect for students, faculty, and staff following our shared Franciscan values.

****Any changes to this syllabi will be communicated to the student.**










Please click here to download a [PDF of the syllabus.](#)





<https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/files/318553392?wrap=1>) 

https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/files/318553392/download?download_frd=1

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed May 7, 2025	 Discuss: Love and the Modern Culture (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197052)	due by 11:59pm
	 Submit: Love and Conscience Reflection Paper (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197064)	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 8, 2025	 Submit: Love and Morals Reflection Paper - Articles (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197065)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 9, 2025	 Submit: "Homelessness" Case Study Paper (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197058)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 14, 2025	 Discuss: Bella and Love for Others (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197053)	due by 11:59pm
	 Discuss: Suffering and Compassion (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197051)	due by 11:59pm
	 Submit: Sin and Suffering Reflection Paper (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197066)	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 15, 2025	 Submit: The Problem of Pain/Sheryl Sandberg Reflection Paper - Articles (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197068)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 16, 2025	 Submit: "A Life for a Life?" Case Study Paper (https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197057)	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 21, 2025	 Discuss: Capitalism and Virtue (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197054	
	 Discuss: What Makes an Action Moral? (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197050	due by 11:59pm
	 Submit: Authentic Freedom Reflection Paper https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197061	due by 11:59pm
Thu May 22, 2025	 Submit: Freedom for Excellence/ The Christian Integration of Morality/The Truth Will Make You Free Reflection Paper - Articles https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197063	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 23, 2025	 Submit: "Sustaining Dover" Case Study Paper https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197069	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 28, 2025	 Discuss: Moral Code (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197047	due by 11:59pm
	 Discuss: Moral Wisdom (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197049	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 30, 2025	 Submit: "What God Has Joined" Case Study Paper https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197060	due by 11:59pm
Sat May 31, 2025	 Final Reflection Paper https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197056	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 4, 2025	 Discuss: Morality and the Morally Mature Person (Initial Posts Due on Wednesdays) https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197055	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 Submit: The Human Person and Moral Acts Reflection Paper https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197067	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jun 5, 2025	 Submit: Current Moral Issues Reflection Paper - Articles https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197062	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 6, 2025	 Submit: "Keeping the Doors Open" Case Study Paper https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197059	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 7, 2025	 Take: Final Exam https://marian.instructure.com/courses/7545498/assignments/50197046	due by 11:59pm