

BCRE25 Approaches to Theological Ethics

Semester: A

ECTS Credits: 5

Duration: 11 weeks

Contact Hours: 22

Quota: None

Prerequisite subjects: None

The contributions Christian ethicists make to debates in the public sphere depend on the approaches they take to this discipline, basing it on the Bible or the worshipping community, on virtue, on classical or revisionist Natural Law, on principled autonomy in a Christian framework, or on different feminist positions. The module will investigate these approaches in terms of their methods and basic concepts, and on how they relate to movements of philosophical thought and to other theological disciplines, such as biblical studies and hermeneutics. How they evaluate some concrete ethical issues and justify their positions will also be compared.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Recognise and illustrate with examples the typical uses of core ethical concepts in each School's argumentation

Analyse each approach regarding the relationship it proposes between faith and (practical) reason, biblical revelation and church community, theological ethics and the human sciences

Relate the five theological ethical approaches studied to philosophical and theological anthropologies within the history of Western thinking

Outline some transformations within this heritage arising from the interaction between philosophical and theological ethics

Distinguish alternative positions in the philosophical debate on public reason and argue for their own view on the role of religion in civil society.

Indicative Bibliography:

Schweiker, William (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005)

Harrington, Daniel/Keenan, James, *Jesus and Virtue Ethics* (Lanham, MD/Chicago: Sheed & Ward, 2002)

Fergusson, David, *Community, Liberalism and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge: CUP, 1998)

Hauerwas, Stanley/Wells, Samuel (eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwells, 2004)

Wilkins, John (Ed.) *Understanding Veritatis Splendor* (London: SPCK, 1994)

Sowle Cahill, Lisa, *Theological Bioethics. Participation – Justice - Change* (Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2005)

Cahill, L.S./Haker, H./Messi Metogo, E. (eds), *Natural Law and Human Nature, Concilium 46* (London: SCM, 2010)

Ammicht-Quinn, Regina, Tamez, Elsa (eds), *The Body and Religion, Concilium 2002/2* (London: SCM Press (2002)

Biggar, Nigel/Hogan, Linda (eds), *Religious Voices in Public Places* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay

Name of lecturer

Professor Maureen Junker-Kenny