

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	E7346
Unit Name	Marriage, Family and Sexual Ethics
Unit Weighting	9 cps
Type of Unit	Specialised
Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions	E7100 Sources and Principles of Christian Ethics or E7200 Methods in Christian Ethics
Academic Staff	Peter A. Comensoli, STB (CIS), STL (Alphonsianum) , PhD (Edinburgh, 2011), DD. Lecturer Gerald Gleeson, STB (CIS 1978), MA (Cantab 1987), PhD (Leuven 1989), Associate Professor
Curriculum Objectives	This unit explores the human, theological and ecclesial understandings of human sexuality, and their implications for personal relationships and Christian marriage.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. outline a Christian anthropological understanding of human sexuality, marriage and the role of the family 2. identify and critically articulate the ethical issues raised by the experience of human sexuality and interpersonal relationships; 3. outline and apply the Catholic teaching on marriage, family, and divorce; 4. discuss the implications of Catholic moral teachings for the ethics of interpersonal relationships; 5. describe the pastoral implications of Catholic teaching on marriage, family, and divorce;
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	Christian marriage as sacramental.
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical overview of Catholic teachings on marriage and human sexuality. 2. Theological perspectives: Trinity, creation and covenant, theology of the body, sacramentality. 3. The ethical aspects of family life and responsible parenthood. 4. Friendship, celibacy and vocation to holiness. 5. Contemporary issues in sexual ethics, including homosexuality. 6. Ethical aspects of human development and sexual maturation. 7. The pastoral application of the Church's teachings on sexuality.
Learning Activities	Lectures, seminars and student presentations.
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	n/a
Assessment Profile	<p>Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the place of sexuality within a Catholic theological anthropology [Outcomes 1 and 3] (e.g. in an essay) 2. Critically discuss the Catholic theological approach to sexual ethics in relation to a contested contemporary issue. (e.g. in an essay) [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4] 3. Outline a suitably complex pastoral situation concerning sexuality and marriage, and describe the steps a pastor should take to the people in the situation in keeping with the principles for the pastoral application of Catholic moral teaching (e.g. in a long essay or student presentation [Outcomes 3 and 5]

Representative References

- Collins, R.F. *Sexual Ethics and the New Testament. Behavior and Belief*. New York: Crossroad, 2000.
- Farley, M.A. *Just Love. A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. New York: Continuum, 2006
- May, W.E, Lawler, R., J. Boyle, J.R. *Catholic Sexual Ethics*. 3rd ed. Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2011.
- Lawler, M. *Marriage and the Catholic Church. Disputed Questions*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2002.
- McDonagh, Enda & MacNamara, Vincent. *An Irish Reader in Moral Theology. Vol. 2. Sex, Marriage and the Family*. Dublin: Columba Press, 2011.
- National Catholic Bioethics Center, *Human Sexuality and Personhood: Proceedings of the Workshop for the Hierarchies of the United States and Canada*. Revised Edition. Braintree: National Catholic Bioethics Center, 1990.
- Roberts, Christopher C. *Creation and Covenant. The Significance of Sexual Difference in the Moral Theology of Marriage*. New York: T&T Clark, 2007.
- Salzman, T.A., T.M. Kelly, and J.J. O'Keefe (eds.) *Marriage in the Catholic Tradition: Scripture, Tradition and Experience*. New York: Crossroad, 2004.
- Shivanandan, M. *Crossing the Threshold of Love. A New Vision of Marriage in Light of John Paul II's Anthropology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999.