

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	E7100
Unit Name	Sources and Principles of Christian Ethics
Unit Weighting	9 cps
Type of Unit	Foundational
Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions	
Academic Staff	Peter A. Comensoli, STB (CIS), STL (Alphonsianum), PhD (Edinburgh, 2011), DD. Lecturer
Curriculum Objectives	This unit introduces students to theological reflection on the ethical aspects of Christian life and discipleship.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and describe the sources of Christian ethics 2. Explain the central concepts in Christian ethics 3. Outline the key developments in Christian ethics 4. Demonstrate a familiarity with the literature of Christian ethics 5. Reflect on ethical issues in an integral way in the light of the various elements of Christian moral reasoning.
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	The relationship between Christian faith and living a morally good life.
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theological Presuppositions: Trinity, Creation, Incarnation and the Kingdom of God. 2. Contemporary culture, secularity and Christian Ethics. 3. New Testament sources: Jesus' preaching and Paul's letters. 4. The historical development of Christian Ethics 5. The anthropological, ecclesial and theological bases of Christian ethics. 6. Human nature, freedom, responsibility and moral reasoning 7. Conscience, conversion and moral development 8. The virtues, friendship and Christian discipleship 9. Love, holiness and the Christian moral vocation 10. The application of Christian ethics to human society.
Learning Activities	Lectures, seminars, student presentations
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	n/a
Assessment Profile	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 <u>will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the biblical sources of Christian moral reflection (e.g. in a short essay). [Early diagnostic task] Outcomes (1) and (4). 2. Explain and apply a fundamental principle of Christian Ethics (e.g. in a student presentation). Outcomes (2) and (5) 3. Develop an integrated reflection on a contemporary ethical issue in the light of the sources of Christian ethics (e.g. in a major essay). Outcomes (2), (3) and (5)

Representative References

- Bretzke, J.T. *A Morally Complex World. Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004.
- Brock, Brian. *Singing the Ethos of God: On the Place of Christian Ethics in Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Cessario, Romanus, *Introduction to Moral Theology*. (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2001).
- Demmer, K. *Shaping the Moral Life. An Approach to Moral Theology*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2000.
- Gascoigne, Robert, *Freedom and Purpose: An Introduction to Christian Ethics*. New York: Paulist, 2004.
- Harrington, D.J. and J.F. Keenan. *Jesus and Virtue Ethics. Building Bridges Between New Testament Studies and Moral Theology*. Lanham, MD: Sheed and Ward, 2002.
- Keenan, James F. SJ. *Moral Wisdom*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010.
- Mattison, William C. *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2008).
- Pinckaers, S. *Morality. The Catholic View*. South Bend, IN.: St. Augustine's Press, 2001.
- Matera, F.J. *New Testament Ethics. The Legacies of Jesus and Paul*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996
- Melina, Livio. *Sharing in Christ's Virtues*. Washington, DC: CUA Press, 2001.