

Course Syllabus
SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

I. Course Number and Title: ST 775 Theology of Marriage

II. Instructor: Gregory A. Banazak

III. Semester: Fall, 2017

IV. Credit Hours: 2

V. Delivery System: This course will be "presential" in that the members of the class will meet weekly in person.

VI. Day, Time, and Place: Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Maida Alumni Library; Aug. 31 to Dec. 14.

There will be no class on the following dates: Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving break); and Nov. 30 (instructor will be attending professional conventions)

VII. Course Description: Biblical, systematic, and historical study of marriage as a sacrament. Attention will be given to the nature of marriage and to recognition of it as a sacrament, sexuality in marriage, ecumenical and interfaith marriages, marriage and baptized non-believers, theological and pastoral issues regarding divorce and remarriage, and the theology of the family.

VIII. Student Learning Objectives

1. articulate sociological and anthropological views on the origin and nature of marriage
2. express the understanding of marriage in Scripture
3. review theological and magisterial answers to two crucial questions on marriage, viz., what is it? and is it good?
4. give an explanation of, and theological and pastoral answers to, the question of the marriage of baptized non-believers
5. explain the unity of marriage in itself and in relation to the contemporary issues of cohabitation, polygamy, and same-sex marriage
6. explain the indissolubility of marriage in itself and in relation to the contemporary issues of divorce and remarriage
7. explain the fruitfulness of marriage
8. identify the nature of the family and its relation to society and the church
9. articulate the history of theology and teaching on ecumenical and interfaith marriages and offer theological and pastoral reflections upon them

IX. General Thematic Outline of the Course

0. Introduction to Course

1. The History of the Theology of Marriage
 - 1.1 Scripture
 - 1.2 The History of Teaching and Tradition
2. Overview of Contemporary Theologies of Marriage in General
3. Particular Questions in the Theology of Marriage
 - 3.1 Faith and the Sacrament
 - 3.2 The Unity of Marriage
 - 3.2.1. Cohabitation
 - 3.2.2 Gay Marriages
 - 3.3 The Indissolubility of Marriage
 - 3.3.1 Divorce and Remarriage
 - 3.3.2 Annulments
 - 3.4 The Fruitfulness of Marriage
 - 3.4.1 Sexuality in Marriage
 - 3.4.2 The Family
 - 3.5 Ecumenical and Interfaith Marriages

X. Texts: There will be no required texts for this course. The instructor will distribute a course packet of readings on Sept. 7.

XI. Learning Methodologies: A set of notes will be distributed for each lesson. These notes will usually be a summary, explanation, and contextualization of the main points of the assigned reading(s) with additional insights from other sources. With these notes I hope to accomplish a number of goals: create a relaxed environment in which students can be relieved of the need to take copious notes and can concentrate instead on comprehension; introduce the students to different methodologies and terminologies by allowing authors quoted in the notes to speak for themselves; give clarity and order to class discussions; ease the efforts of international students to understand the class material. However, if the notes do not serve these goals and instead become a substitute for reading or an inducement to passivity I will immediately discontinue them. In addition, it should be understood that the instructor's notes are not to be given to persons who are not registered in this class during this semester; serious repercussions will result from a violation of this understanding. The instructor's notes are a tool of instruction and not an obligation contracted with the student.

The instructor will be attentive to the diverse learning styles of the students and will adapt his teaching style to accommodate them.

XII. Magisterial Documents Read in This Class:

Council of Chalcedon. Canon 14. (451)

Second Council of Lyons. Profession of Faith of the Emperor Michael Paleologus. (1274)

Pope Paul III. Altitudo. (1537)

Pope Pius V. Romani pontificis. (1561)

Pope Gregory XIII. Populis ac nationibus. (1585)

Council of Trent. Teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage; Canons on the Sacrament of Marriage; and Canons on the Reform of Marriage ["Tametsi"]. (1563)

Pope Pius IX. Casti conubi. (1930)

Vatican II. Gaudium et spes. (1965)

Pope Paul VI. Matrimonia mixta. (1970)

Pope John Paul II. Familiaris consortio. (1980)

Pope John Paul II. Charter of the Rights of the Family. (1983)

Pope John Paul II. Letter to Families. (1994)

Pope Francis. Amoris laetitia. (2016)

XIII. General Guidelines

1. Guidelines for Academic Study: Students are expected to devote at least 2 to 3 hours of study per week, per credit hour. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit.

2. Standards for Written Assignments: Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy. They must be proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (latest edition). The manual is available in the Library. Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments.

3. Submission of Assignments in both Printed and Digital Form: According to seminary policy, all written work for this class must be submitted to the instructor in digital form. They should be sent to his email address which is listed on the first page of this syllabus.

In addition, the instructor would also like a hard copy of all written work.

4. Disabilities Accommodation: Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should notify the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course material and interaction in modes in which they can receive them.

5. Class Recording: Tape recorders or any other device intended to register the discussion and activities of students or the instructor in this course are strictly prohibited. Laptop computers may be used in class so long as they do not disturb other students and are not used for purposes other than participation and work in the class session.

6. Class Presence and Participation: Students are expected to attend all class sessions. I understand "attendance" to mean that you are ready to begin class on time and remain until class is finished. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from class, please consult with me first. Frequent and unreasonable absences from class may result in an academic penalty and / or a failing grade in the course according to the instructor's discretion. Students themselves are responsible for obtaining materials distributed during a class session from which they were absent. The instructor cannot offer make-up class sessions and/or a private review of his teaching notes. The instructor will mail materials to students if they have first provided him with a self-addressed stamped envelope or an email address to which he can send materials in digital form (to be mailed the first business day after the class session is held). However, students should understand that this course has a site on the Populi platform and that the instructor will post his notes for all classes on that site the day after the respective class has finished.

In order to participate actively, students should bring this syllabus and copies of that day's required reading(s) / texts to class.

No one may attend class other than students registered in this course in this semester.

7. Respect For Others: As a matter of course, the students and instructor are expected to show respect for all members of the class at all times. In particular, the instructor will tolerate absolutely no language or behavior, during class and/or in written assignments, which disparages race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or sex. Christian charity would seem to require that problems regarding this matter should be brought directly to the attention of the offending party. If this is ineffective or impossible, please call the instructor's attention to the matter and he will talk with the matter to the offending party. Failure to respond to repeated requests may result in a conference with higher authorities and / or an academic penalty. In addition, students are urged to use inclusive language in speaking and writing as a means of expressing and fostering respect for the dignity of all persons.

8. Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (a created production) without crediting the source vi: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source" (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a "0" for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student's file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student's mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student's plagiarism and a faculty member of the student's choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as "to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death> intransitive verb: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards> <cheating on a test> ("cheat." Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May, 2010.<http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, "cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game" (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence, 1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
- i. using another person's paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;

j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam. (The term “exam” may be substituted with “quiz,” “paper,” or “presentation” as the case may be.)

XIV. Assignments

1. **Readings**: Readings will be assigned for all class sessions. Since they form the basis for participation in the blogs and successful completion of the quizzes, such readings are essential. You are expected to *finish* the readings assigned to you *before* the date on which they are due. As an aid to students’ planning, I’ve listed assigned readings for the semester in a course calendar to be distributed in class.

I suggest that you read in order to find main ideas rather than to memorize all details. For instance, after reading an assigned text, try to express to yourself, briefly and simply, the main ideas the author attempted to communicate. You might also express to yourself, briefly and simply, your opinion on those ideas.

2. **Research Experiences**: In order to hone their research skills, continue to familiarize them with the Maida Alumni Library, and stimulate their engagement with course material, students will be expected to complete six limited research experiences.

These experiences will be answers to precise questions asked by the instructor about material related to the course. Students will be given these questions at the beginning of every other class and will answer them by conducting research exclusively in the Maida Alumni Library. Students will write their answers to these questions and include the sources from the library in which they found the answers. The written responses will be on no more than one sheet of paper; they will be typed, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins on all sides and characterized by perfect spelling, grammar, and punctuation; and they will be typed in Times New Roman font, 12 point. All sources must be formatted according to the 8th edition of the Turabian Manual. Students will submit these written answers to the instructor, in hard copy and in digital form, at the beginning of the subsequent class session. They may also be called upon during that session to summarize their findings for the benefit of the rest of the class.

Written responses will be evaluated according to accuracy, clarity, foundation (in sources), and fulfillment of the above requirements. Each written response will count for 5% of the final grade for the course.

3. **Final Comprehensive Exam**: So that you may have the opportunity to summarize and synthesize the material of the course as well as have your learning assessed by an attentive listener / reader, you will be given a final comprehensive exam. This exam serves the crucial and irreplaceable function of challenging you to formulate your own answers to questions and issues raised in class and to create a general vision of marriage for yourself. Further details on this exam will be given as we approach the respective date. I anticipate the exam being offered in either oral or written form, according to the student’s choice. As a way of assisting students to prepare for the final exam, comprehension questions for that exam will regularly be given the week after the class to which the questions are directed.

The final exam is officially scheduled for **Dec. 14**. It will count for 70% of your final grade.

XV. Grading

Your final grade will be calculated according to this breakdown:

Final Comprehensive Exam: 70%
Each Research Experience: 5% (for a total of 30% for all experiences together)

XVI. Notice of Change: The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.