



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYT3682HS/WYT6682HS
Course Name: Human Sexuality in a Christian Perspective
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ephraim Radner Teaching Assistant:
E-mail: e.radner@wycliffe.utoronto.ca E-mail:
Office Hours:

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

Give the course code and title of any pre-requisite or requisite courses.

Course Description

This course will examine human sexuality from a range of theological and historical perspectives: Scriptural, doctrinal, sociological, and ethical. The main lens through which we will look at these categories, however, will be the broader one of “creaturehood”, understood both from a systematic theological perspective, and from historical/ecclesial traditions. Questions of sexual differentiation, desire, procreation, family, and marriage and celibacy will be discussed. The goal of the course is to provide the student with a broad base from which to discern a consistent pattern of Christian understanding regarding sexuality, within both historical and contemporary diversities, and with this understanding begin to formulate appropriate attitudes towards the Christian Church’s formational vocation with respect to sexuality.

Course Methodology

Lectures, discussion, readings, weekly assignments, paper

Course Outcomes

BD Outcomes:

| COURSE OUTCOMES | COURSE ELEMENT | PROGRAM OUTCOMES |
|---|---|--|
| By the end of this course, students | This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements: | This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have developed a deeper understanding of Scriptural and historic Church teachings and practice with respect to sexuality; | Lectures, readings | MTS: 1.3 MDiv: 1.3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have learned how such teachings relate to specific church traditions and contexts; | Lectures, readings | MTS: 1.5 MDiv: 1.5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have developed a deeper contextual understanding of the social and ecclesial frameworks for living out sexual lives; | Lectures, readings | MTS: 1.5, 3.2 MDiv: 1.5, 3.2, 3.3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have developed greater sensitivity in identifying and understanding the traditions regarding sexual behavior among various Christians; | Lectures, readings, discussions | MTS: 1.5 MDiv: 1.5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have an informed understanding of the development of church teaching on the topic of sexuality; | Lectures, readings, discussions, paper | MTS: 1.3 MDiv: 1.3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have developed tools for engaging larger social attitudes towards sexuality | Lectures, readings, discussions | MTS: 2.3, 3.3 MDiv: 2.2, 2.3 |

AD Outcomes:

| COURSE OUTCOMES | COURSE ELEMENT | PROGRAM OUTCOMES |
|--|---|--|
| By the end of this course, students | This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements: | This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of GCST statements of outcomes |
| • will have developed a deeper understanding of Scriptural and historic Church teachings and practice with respect to sexuality; | Lectures, readings | PhD: 1.1 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1 |
| • will have learned how such teachings relate to specific church traditions and contexts; | Lectures, readings | PhD: 1.1 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1 |
| • will have developed a deeper contextual understanding of the social and ecclesial frameworks for living out sexual lives; | Lectures, readings | PhD: 1.1 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1 |
| • will have an informed understanding of the development of church teaching on the topic of sexuality; | Lectures, readings, discussions | PhD: 1.1 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1 |
| • Informing the development of church teaching on the topic of sexuality; | Lectures, readings, discussions, paper | PhD: 1.1 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1 |
| • will have developed tools for engaging larger social attitudes towards sexuality | Lectures, readings, discussions | PhD: 1.1 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1 |

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

All books involve selections of approx. 50-100 pages; a few books will be available at the Crux bookstore, or you may order them yourselves as you choose; the majority will be in a packet of reading material, or online material, for those assignments (including articles) that are not readily or reasonably available to purchase (Hunter, Chrysostom, Thatcher, JP II).

Books in bold are required texts, available at Crux.

- Deborah Youngs, *The Life-Cycle in Western Europe, c. 1300-1500*
- Peter Ditchfield, *Old Village Life* (1927) – chapters 6, 10, 15.
- Sabine Baring-Gould, *Old Country Life* (1890) – c. 12, “Old Servants”
- James C. Riley, *Sickness, Recovery and Death* (1989); *Rising Life Expectancy* (2001)
- Richard Hays, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, cc. 10, 13, 16
- Robert Gagnon and Don Via, *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views* (entire book; skim)
- Ephraim Radner, *Leviticus* (on cc. 12-15, 18)
- **Sigmund Freud, *Reflections on War and Death* (section I; section II. pt.2) [in Freud, *On Murder, Mourning, and Melancholia*, Penguin Modern Classics, 2005]**
- David Hunter, *Marriage, Celibacy and Heresy in ancient Christianity* (pp. 2–12; 30–43; 51–63; 87–105; 243–87)
- **John Chrysostom, *On Marriage and Family Life* (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press; Homilies 19, 20, 12)**
- Philippe Aries and André Begin, *Western Sexuality* (cc. 6–7, 10–12)
- Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*
- **Stanley Grenz, *Sexual Ethics: An Evangelical Perspective* (Intro, cc. 1–3, 6–8, 11, Epilogue)**
- Adrian Thatcher (ed.), *Celebrating Christian Marriage* (Part 1, c. 4, Pt. 3, c. 9, 14)
- Elaine May, *America and the Pill* (2011)
- Various articles on same-sex marriage, by Sommerville, Gergis, Farrow, Rogers, and Jordan
- **John Paul II, *The Theology of the Body* (Pt. 1; pp. 304–33)**
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Neera Badhwar (ed.), *Friendship: A Philosophical Reader* (1993)
- Hugh Black and W. R. Nicoll, *Friendship* (1898)
- **Steven E. Ozment, *Ancestors: The Loving Family in Old Europe***
- Jordan, Mark D., *Blessing same-sex unions: the perils of queer romance and the confusions of Christian marriage*
- Illich, Ivan, *Gender*
- Philip Greven, *The Protestant Temperament*, selections
- Rader, Rosemary, *Breaking Boundaries: Male/Female Friendship in Early Christian Communities*
- Alan Collins (ed.), *Cities of Pleasure: Sex and the Urban Socialscape* (2006)
- John Zizioulas, *Communion and Otherness*

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you’ll find the link to the

website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Tom Power for further help.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (January 9): The Order of Life and Community. *Readings:* Youngs (selections), Ozment, Ditchfield, Baring-Gould.

Week 2 (January 16) Mortality and Family. *Readings:* James C. Riley.

Week 3 (January 23) Modern readjustments. *Readings:* Thatcher, May, Richard Dawkins, Sex Death, and the Meaning of Life (video).

Week 4 (January 30) Scriptural outlines of Creation and Creaturehood. *Readings:* Radner.

Week 5 (February 6) Scriptural outlines of Human Life and Generation. *Readings:* Hays, Novak, Gagnon/Via, Sommerville, Jordan.

Week 6 (February 13) Hermeneutics of Creaturehood. *Readings:* Zizioulas. Review.

Week 7 (February 20) Reading Week.

Week 8 (February 27) Early Christian Debates on Sexuality. *Readings:* Hunter, Chrysostom, Rader, Aries.

Week 9 (March 6) Overviews. *Readings:* Aries, Illich, Greven, Koontz.

Week 10 (March 13) Evangelical Outlines. *Readings:* Grenz.

Week 11 (March 20) Catholic Outlines and John Paul II. *Readings:* Canon Law, Catechism, John Paul II.

Week 12 (March 27) Friendship. *Readings:* Badhwar, Nichol.

Week 13 (April 3) Contemporary Challenges. *Readings:* Collins.

Evaluation

Requirements

The course will engage broad reading, lecture, and discussion, with weekly short assignments and a final paper aimed at outlining and justifying a teaching syllabus for teenagers within a church setting (15 pages).

Advanced Degree students will have an expanded reading list (see above) and will be writing a longer research paper on a chosen set topic relating to Christian formation with regard to sexuality within pluralistic cultures.

Grading: written weekly assignments (25%); in-class participation (30%); final paper (45%)

Assignments received late, without previous permission, will be automatically marked down by 5 percentage points per day late. Permission will be granted, with prior request (via email if necessary) only for illness or family emergency.

Grading System

| Letter Grade | Numerical Equivalents | Grade Point | Grasp of Subject Matter |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| A+ | 90–100% | 4.0 | Profound & Creative |
| A | 85–89% | 4.0 | Outstanding |
| A- | 80–84% | 3.7 | Excellent |
| B+ | 77–79% | 3.3 | Very Good |
| B | 73–76% | 3.0 | Good |
| B- | 70–72% | 2.7 | Satisfactory |
| FZ | 0–69% | 0 | Failure |

Grades without numerical equivalent:

| | |
|-----|--|
| CR | Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value |
| NCR | Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation |
| SDF | Standing deferred (a temporary extension) |
| INC | Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value |
| WDR | Withdrawal without academic penalty |
| AEG | May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value |

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

Aries, Philippe and André Begin, *Western Sexuality*.

Badhwar, Neera, ed. *Friendship: A Philosophical Reader*, 1993.

Baring-Gould, Sabine. *Old Country Life* 1890.

Black, Hugh and W. R. Nicoll, *Friendship*, 1898.

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