

Morality / Social Justice Syllabus
Deacon Wilson
Room 609
805-648-6836 Ext. 255
bwilson@saintbonaventure.com

“Christian, recognize your dignity...” CCC 1691

***“...Yahweh asks of you, simply this:
to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8***

Course Description

Junior Religion is a yearlong course focused on Christian Morality and Catholic Social Justice; with Morality the focus for the first semester and Social Justice the second.

In Morality the overall class objective is best expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church article 1691 which reads “Christian, recognize your dignity...”. Each of you have within you the wonderful gifts, talents and possibilities placed there by your creator; God. The course focuses on teaching you the student to learn to look inward and recognize that “inner you” and to see and to express what God created you to be.

The course accomplishes this objective by first teaching you what this uniquely human activity called morality is and that Christian Morality is the way we live our lives in response to Jesus. This is accomplished by creating awareness within you that making the right moral decisions begins with seeing yourselves in the eyes of Jesus and by recognizing that through God’s Grace you will have the support necessary to meet the challenges the greatest of which is to love. You the student will come to know what character is and how it differentiates from personality. In addition, you will realize the responsibility you have to assure that you form an informed conscience. To understand that our moral decision making is a process and how that process can be flawed by sin. The course concludes as it teaches you the student to use your understanding of good Christian moral decision making in caring for and respecting your body as you mature into your sexuality; physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

Just as Morality provides realization that God created us to love and serve one another, the objectives of Social Justice are first, to create an acute sense of awareness of the imbalances and the injustices that certain groups of our brothers and sisters suffer at the hands of those who support structures, societies and ideologies that fall woefully short in establishing justice and equality. Secondly, to motivate you the student into action to, as in the words of St. Therese of Avila, to be the “hands, the feet, the arms of Christ” to alleviate suffering and to restore balance and justice.

The course accomplishes this objective by basing its instruction on the “Wheel of Justice: Catholic Social Justice Themes” outlined by the U. S. Catholic Bishops. These seven highlighted principles take you the student through issues related to the “Right to Life”, prejudice, racism, poverty, world peace, justice in the work place and the role of justice in taking care of the world that God has given us.

Class Expectations

The classroom rules are short and few in number however they encompass much. They are based on the three “R’s” of classroom conduct. They are as follows:

Respect: As a student in this class, you will show respect to every faculty member and every other student in class as well as on our campus. Acts of disrespect will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as per the discipline guidelines of SBHS.

The expectation is that you will not disrupt the class in anyway. I expect you to stay on task, to follow instructions and to carry those out to the best of your ability.

Reverence: As a student in this class, you will show reverence for God and others at all times through your words, actions and interactions. Regardless of your personal opinions and relationship with God, you will respect your fellow students and the values set forth by SBHS.

Responsibility: As a student in this class, you will be prompt, polite and prepared to begin each class on time and with the necessary materials: Textbook, Bible, Note taking material and writing instruments.

With this said, all rules, policies and procedures of SBHS as outlined in the student handbook will be enforced at all times in my classroom. These include but not limited to cell phones, IPOD's, required uniform, eating and drinking in the classroom, gum chewing, tardiness and absences.

Classroom work, homework assignments, exams and class participation

- ✚ All reading assignments are to be completed in order to prepare for the next class' discussion. Pop quizzes will be randomly given to reward those who do the reading and motivate those who need it.
- ✚ All homework assignments must be completed and submitted on time and will collected at the beginning of each class.
- ✚ Late work will be accepted at a reduced grade on one day following the due date beyond that no late work will be accepted. In the case of an unexcused absence as per school policy no work will be accepted.
- ✚ Assignments will be completed using black or blue ink on ruled paper. All assignments will be legible and are to be completed using correct grammar, sentence structure and spelling. Any paper that I cannot read will not be graded.
- ✚ **You are responsible** for making up all missed work as a result of an excused absence. It is your responsibility to come to me to determine missed assignments or make up exams or quizzes. Copies of all assignments, handouts and lesson plans can be found on Deacon Wilson's webpage. Should you be absent when an assignment is due, the assignment will be due immediately upon your return to school and or class.
- ✚ Class participation grades will be determined on a merit / demerit system based on your participation in class discussions, spontaneous offerings to material being presented, answering questions, having required materials for class and following the rules of the classroom.
- ✚ All SBHS policies regarding cheating will be followed with no exceptions.
- ✚ You are expected to take care of your personal needs during break and lunch time. Requests to leave the classroom for bathroom purposes will be for emergency purposes only. Under no circumstances, excluding true emergencies are you to interrupt class lectures and presentations to make requests to leave the room.

Grading

Grades for this course will be based on total points:

✚ Exams	30%
(Worth 50 points: each semester you can expect 5-6)	
✚ Journaling, Homework, Quizzes	30%
✚ Class Participation	40%

Each semester will have between 750 – 800 available points. You can always calculate your current grade by taking your total points awarded to you and dividing it by the total number of available points at that point.

By way of an example: If your total points awarded to you is 467 and at that point there was a total of 500 points available your current grade would be: $467 / 500 = 93\%$ A

Class Participation Rubric

Maximum Weekly Points = 20

Not late to class each day
Has all required material each day
Takes part in class activities
Has 3 participation points = 20

Not late to class each day
Has all required material each day
Takes part in class activities
Has 0 participation points = 17

Not late to class each day
Has all required material each day
Takes part in class activities
Has 2 participation points = 19

Not late to class each day
Has all required material each day
Participates minimally = 16

Not late to class each day
Has all required material each day
Takes part in class activities
Has 1 participation point = 18

Not late to class each day
Has all required material each day
Does not participate in class = 15

Participation points can be earned by volunteering answers during discussions, providing correct answer when called upon, volunteering an observation or opinion that adds to the discussion.

Negative participation points will be given for each infraction per day. Infractions earning negative points are not having required texts or materials, disruption to class, failure to follow instructions, being late to class.

Negative points will also be given when you are asked a question and it is clear that you are not prepared. Please note that enough negative points for the week can result in a weekly participation grade of zero (0).

Required Materials

- ✚ Text: Morality – Morality An Invitation to Christian Living Harcourt Religion Publishers
Social Justice – Catholic Social Teaching Ave Marie Press
- ✚ Bible

- ✚ Spiral notebook dedicated to this class for journaling
- ✚ Sufficient supplies of paper, writing instruments, etc.