

Immaculate Conception Academy
Pursuit of Character

Instructor: Andrea G. Manchester

I. Course Objectives: It is the goal of this course to provide students with a look at the philosophical roots of the Church's moral and social teachings. Through use of the text, films to illustrate the principles examined in the course, student presentations and class discussion, the course hopes to touch convincingly on the basic issues of life and to lay a foundation for the development of character rooted in faith.

II. Course Content: This is a two-semester course designed to encourage students to reflect on their various relationships: family, friends, community, nation, the Church and God. Together as a class they will have the opportunity to examine issues of conscience, the relationship between law and truth, issues of human rights, questions of self-worth, and the responsibilities of sexuality, family and community. Hopefully, through this opportunity for prayerful reflection they will grow in compassion, understanding, faith, hope, and love.

III. Textbooks: O'Malley, William, S.J. *Building Your Own Conscience*, Tabor Press, 1992. *The New American Bible*, Fireside Edition.

IV. Supplementary Materials: In an effort to support the students' learning, additional resources will be utilized including but not limited to videos and articles.

V. Assignments : N.B. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED

1. All written assignments must be done on a computer and stored on the R drive or at home. Students should always make a printed backup and keep a backup of their files on disc, flash drive, etc. This means that no written assignments can be hand written or typed on a typewriter without permission.
2. The students will write and share short thought papers on relevant topics throughout the year.
3. Periodically, students will write lengthy essay exams to help them synthesize the concepts in the book with material from the selected films
4. There will be graphic assignments and projects to encourage discussion in class.
5. There will be objective tests in this class, i.e. multiple choice and true/false to determine knowledge of content.
6. Students must bring their textbooks to class everyday, unless otherwise told.

VI. Missed quizzes and exams: These will be made up at the teacher's discretion (excused absences only).

VII. Quarter grades are based on a percentage of total points. Students earn points on a variety of graded assignments and a cumulative total is computed. This is compared to the total point value of the assignments and a percent is calculated. Semester grades are calculated as follows: 40% first quarter, 40% second quarter, and 20% final. Deficiency reports will be given to students with a C- or below as noted in the planner/calendar. Interim progress reports will be available on PowerSchool.

Course Outcomes to be assessed:

By the end of this course students will

1. Understand the cycle of Epistemology.
2. Recognize participation in moral ecology, “a web of relationships.”
3. Recognize distinction between legal and moral.
4. Understand the responsibility inherent in freedom.
5. Develop an understanding of suffering as related to crises and growth.
6. Be able to explain or illustrate the concept of love as a commitment rather than a feeling.
 - Eudaimonia literally “a good soul” not “happy,” and distinctions among types of love, i.e. eros, agape, etc.
 - Appreciate the kind of love required in marriage and family life
 - Recognize in examples the negative affect substance abuse has on this life.
7. Be able to participate articulately in conversations about topics that are commonly considered in nature vs. nurture discussions.
 - Differences between men and women
 - homosexuality