

Catholic Witness/Response to Morality and Ethics
in Contemporary Society

Course Description: This course is designed to develop strong servant-leaders by learning Catholic-Christian methods for making moral decisions by applying key principles. Students will learn and apply Catholic ethical principles to contemporary life issues present in our world as well as knowledge of the Catholic Church's view of ecumenism and the practice of social justice through local parish leaders. Students will then plan and practice these leadership skills within the school and/or parish communities.

Course Objectives:

- To recognize that God calls everyone to holiness.
- To apply basic Catholic-Christian moral and ethical principles to developments in the fast-changing fields of science, biology, genetics, and bioethics.
- To advance the cause of human rights for all persons from conception until their natural end.
- To pass on to students authentic Christian faith and moral teachings as found in the Scriptures in hopes of motivating them to Christian living and service, especially respect for life, service to others, and working to bring about peace and justice.
- To help students recognize prayer as a way of deepening one's relationship with God.

Texts: *Your Life in Christ ~ Foundations of catholic Morality* (Michael Pennock ~ Ave Maria Press)
Catechism of the Catholic Church (An Image Book)
The Catholic Youth Bible (Saint Mary's Press)

Materials Required: 1" loose leaf binder, loose-leaf paper and writing utensils

Grading: The Peninsula Catholic Grade Scale will be used.

Evaluation:

Tests/Major Projects	40%
Quizzes/ Mini Projects	30%
Class Work/Homework	30%

Completion of service is required in order to receive credit for this course.

Special assignments and/or projects may count as a quiz or a test grade depending on the nature of the assignment. Students will be informed. All papers must be typed using the MLA format. Turnitin.com will be used for all papers submitted. Students will be required to create accounts that allow them to upload their own papers. Papers must be uploaded by the due date. Students will be referred to the Honor Code Council for any plagiarized work. A paper copy is also required to be turned in on the due date.

Class Retreat: Students are required to attend their regularly scheduled class retreats. Students who do not attend their scheduled class retreats must attend an alternate day of reflection. If students do not attend the alternate retreat, their term grade in theology will be deducted by 10 points.

Service: Last June all students received a brochure explaining the service requirements for this academic year. Students are required to complete at least 15 hours of service independent of class service projects or club related service. **Hopefully your student has completed their service which was due in December.** This service should be focused on the student's church or other community organizations and institutions. In addition students will complete an additional 5 to 10 hours of directed service as part of their theology class. Each student will write a reflection paper on their service as part of their theology exam.

Exams: Mid-terms and final exams will be administered. Exams will count for 20% of the half- term grade.

Late Policy: If a student turns a major assignment in late, the highest grade that may be issued is a 69/F. After seven days, the students will receive a zero. A teacher may announce a “drop dead” date on a major assignment which means that it must be turned in on the due date whether or not the student is in school. In this case, failure to do so will result in a zero.

Students will lose ten points per day for late homework assignments. After the third day of lateness a zero will be given.

Absence and Make-up work:

Work assigned prior to the student’s absence will be due when the student returns. Students absent for several days because of illness must see the teacher the day they return to school to coordinate making up missed work/tests.

If a student misses class due to tardiness, a doctor’s appointment, sporting events, etc., it is his/her responsibility to see the teacher before or after school for homework credit and homework assignments. All assignments will be written on the board. All major projects/papers due are expected to be turned in at this time as well.

In the event of a scheduled absence it is the student’s responsibility to inform the teacher prior to his/her absence (at least three days in advance) and develop a plan for completing all work to be missed. Students will be required to take any quizzes or tests immediately after school on the date of return unless coordinated differently with the teacher.

RULES, DISCIPLINE, OBLIGATIONS:

Students will be treated with respect and courtesy and are expected to do the same. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class. This means completing all homework assignments on time, preparing for tests, and bringing all necessary materials to class on a daily basis to include textbook, Catholic Youth Bible, Catechism, and notebook/binder. Students are required to abide by the Honor Code, Dress Code, and Discipline Code of Peninsula Catholic High School. Any violations of these rules may result in demerits, parental phone calls, after school retentions, detentions, or other appropriate consequences as stated in the PCHS Parent-Student Handbook.

Parents please be advised that the Diocese of Richmond requires a lesson on sexuality as part of Virtus education.

I have read and discussed the class syllabus with my son/daughter. I understand the requirements for this course.

Name of Parent (Print)_____

Parent signature_____ Date_____

Name of Student (Print)_____

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parents’ e-mail address_____

Parents’ contact phone number_____