



Moral Theology and the Sanctification of Time

Yearlong 2023-2024

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Grades 10-12

This course is for the high school student who is interested in coming to a better understanding of a good and holy life; who is willing to read a variety of texts with attention, to enter into the argument of each text and to discuss each one; who respects and listens to others, and is able to politely discuss divergent points of view; who can take notes and write paragraphs and essays without difficulty.

Class Dates: Wednesday, September 6, 2023, through Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:45 p.m. Eastern Time

Instructor: Rhea Bright

Email: rbright.scholeacademy@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 9:00-11:00 a.m. ET and by arrangement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Moral Theology and the Sanctification of Time is part of a programme in rediscovering and renewing a lively Anglican heritage of theology, scripture reading and prayer. This is not a course in moralism or legalism. It is not about laws and actions that will make us successful in life. It begins with the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount turning the whole notion of “success” on its head. It is about understanding who and what God created us to be, and the gifts that He has given us to draw us closer to Him and to one another. It is about knowing ourselves and, in knowing ourselves, knowing God. It is about loving one another and, in loving one another, loving God. It is about the pilgrimage of life and the sanctification of time.

We begin by reading Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* to ground ourselves in the classical doctrine of the soul and its virtues bequeathed us by the ancients, and given Christian expression by medieval theologians like Thomas Aquinas. With that solid foundation, we will read Josef Pieper’s book *The Four Cardinal Virtues*, which makes classical and Thomistic teaching on the virtues relevant to contemporary Biblically minded Christians. As a sort of case study of virtue in action (and the failure thereof), we will discuss Jane Austen’s *Emma*. We will then read selections from a variety of Christian theologians on the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Finally, we then turn from the theoretical to the practical, to explore how the system of prayer, scripture reading, and worship in the Book of Common Prayer – “the daily round, the common task” (to quote John Keble) – is specifically designed to educate our minds and discipline our wills to holy living.

SCHEDULE

CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Classes will take place on Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:45 p.m. (ET) for 32 weeks.

Orientation: Monday August 28 at 12:30 a.m.

Semester 1: September 6 – January 19

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-24

Christmas Break: December 19-Jan. 6

Semester 2: January 8 – May 24

Winter Break: February 19-23

Holy Week Break: March 25-29

**Please note that circumstances such as illness, family emergency, or internet failures might disrupt the schedule. Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up in some other way.*

COURSE MAP

QUARTER 1

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*:

The Good for Mankind

Moral Virtues

Intellectual Virtues

Continenence & incontinence

QUARTER 2

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*:

Friendship

Pleasure

Happiness

Josef Pieper, *The Four Cardinal Virtues*:

Prudence

Justice

Fortitude

Temperance

QUARTER 3

Jane Austen, *Emma*

Faith

Hope

Love

QUARTER 4

Common Prayer and the Daily Offices

The Office Lectionary

The Psalter

The Liturgical Year

The Holy Communion

The Eucharistic Lectionary

The Other Rites of the Church

COURSE READING

COURSE TEXTS:

Note that it is essential to get a print edition of the correct translation of Aristotle. Kindle editions are usually not the same translation. Use the ISBN to purchase a print copy.

1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by Terence Irwin. ISBN 978-1624668159
Hackett Publishing Co.
2. Josef Pieper, *The Four Cardinal Virtues*. U. of Notre Dame Press. ISBN 978-0268001032
3. Jane Austen, *Emma* (any edition will do)

4. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer, International Edition. IVP ISBN 978-0830841929 Academic, 2021
5. A Bible (any version)
6. Other reading selections will be provided by the instructor.

STUDENT MASTERY

This class is intended to be part of a life-long journey of discovery and sanctification, with the specific goals that students:

1. Understand the western doctrine of the soul, grounded in Plato and Aristotle, consistent with the Holy Scriptures and developed by Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas.
2. Be able to define the four cardinal virtues.
3. Be able to define the three theological virtues.
4. Understand the intent of the English reformers for the Christian life in producing the Book of Common Prayer.
5. Appreciate and make use of the BCP system of daily scripture reading, and praying daily using the words of scripture.
6. See in the services of the Church the formation and strengthening of the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
7. Think seriously and care deeply about the most important things in life: what it means to be fully human; how we are to love God and one another.

ASSIGNMENTS

Reading Assignments:

Students will be given a reading assignment for each class, accompanied by a few questions intended to direct the student to what is most important in the reading for the purposes of this course. Students will also be directed at times to mark in their text in order to make note of key names or terms. Students should expect to spend almost as much time preparing for class as they will spend in class.

Class Discussion and Note-taking:

Class time will be spent drawing out the essential meaning of the readings through Socratic discussion. Students will be directed to take additional notes as necessary.

Commonplace Book or Journal:

Students will be frequently directed at the end of class to reflect on a point of the day's discussion and write their thoughts in a commonplace journal.

Writing Assignments:

Students will be asked to write occasional short essays on selected topics in order to cement and clarify their understanding and to develop their writing skills. They will be given clear instructions about what is expected, and will receive feedback on the content of the composition and on their spelling, grammar, writing style and clarity.

GRADING

The *Moral Theology and the Sanctification of Time* course through the Canterbury House of Studies at Scholé Academy is intended to engage and invite students to read, to think, to question and to express their thoughts in discussion and writing, and these are activities that do not always lend themselves to quantifiable evaluation and assessment. Nonetheless, we also recognize the need or desire for grades, so traditional numeric or letter grades will be provided and readily accessed on the *Moral Theology and the Sanctification of Time* page on Canvas.

Student grades will be comprised of:

1. Reading Assignments Questions: 25%
2. Commonplace Book: 35%
3. Writing Assignments: 40%

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

1. Students are expected to come to class prepared: with reading assignments completed and contemplated, all materials present, and ready to actively participate.
2. Students are expected to be engaged: listening carefully, asking and answering questions, and thinking about the matters under discussion.
3. Students are expected to take notes on important and relevant content in an organized way so those notes can be consulted for assignments and assessments.
4. Students are expected to submit written assignments through Canvas, and to do so on time, completed neatly and thoroughly.
5. Students are expected to act responsibly: to let the teacher know if he or she will be absent and seek a way to make up for the lost class; to keep up with all reading and writing assignments, and ask for guidance and direction from the teacher whenever necessary.
6. Students are expected to be respectful to their teacher, their classmates and the material.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students will sometimes take assessment tests and/or quizzes privately at home. Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult their chosen style manual (see Student Expectations above) for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which

texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit their work via the *Moral Theology and the Sanctification of Time* assignment page on Canvas (access granted after enrollment is secured).

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Rhea Bright has taught at the middle school, upper school and university level. She taught Ancient & Medieval Humanities at the University of Central Oklahoma from 2003 to 2009. From 2009 to 2019, she taught literature, history, philosophy, Latin, Bible, and logic at Providence Hall in Oklahoma City, which later became The Academy of Classical Christian Studies. She also served as Chair of Humanities.

She holds a B.A. from the University of King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and an M.A. in Classics from Dalhousie University, also in Halifax. King's Foundation Year Program, an early integrated great books curriculum, and the Dalhousie Classics department formed and nurtured what became a life-long love of the classics and a deep appreciation of the contribution of the ancient world to whatsoever is good and true and beautiful in the Christian west. She also has a Bachelor of Education from Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S.

She has served on the Boards of the Society for the Preservation of the Book of Common Prayer both in the United States and in Canada. The primary purpose of these organizations is to promote Anglican belief and worship as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer and the Anglican formularies.

Rhea is married to Father Patrick Bright, a priest ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada, who served for over 24 years at All Souls' Episcopal Church in Oklahoma City, and is now retired from full-time ministry. Together they raised five sons, who are scattered across Canada and the United States. Rhea and Patrick have returned to Canada, and are now enjoying life in her grandparents' 170-year-old house in rural Nova Scotia.