Syllabus CE-606
New Evangelization and Ethics in the Digital Age
Fall Semester 2018

Prof: Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM

Fall Semester 2018 – Franciscan School of Theology

Tuesday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

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Course Description

The purpose of this course

- **This course will study the ethical challenges in communication technology that are also boundless opportunities for evangelization.**
- **We will explore the new role of Parish priests, catechists and teachers in educating the "mobile-born" generations and facing some specific problems as cyberbullying and exhibitionism in social networks.**
- **We will also study the possible use of the new technologies in running the parish and celebrating the liturgy.**
- **Our analysis will be inspired at Catholic Social Teaching and Franciscan Spirituality**.

Main practical objectives

- **1. To understand the relationship that exists between the use of ICT and being true to him/herself as a person**
- **2. To stimulate the moral imagination**
- **3. To develop the ability for critical analysis on the moral values involves in the use of ICT (reflection)**
- **4. To acquire the capacity of publicly sustaining a reasonable position while being open to dialogue and pluralism (argument)**
- **5. To strengthen the sense of moral responsibility (life)**

1. ICT and being authentic

To make of social life **a humanly positive and favorable** **environment**

- **where every person can become fully what he/she already is**
- **reaching his/her full human potential.**
- **to reflect on what everybody should do in order to being true to him/herself as an intrinsically social being.**

The heart is our way of entry into the moral dimensions of existence.

- **It is through the emotional experience that we are moved to start our moral reflection,**
- **The feelings of anguish we experience in front of a handicapped child, the anger in front injustice, for example,**
  - **open us to the moral dimensions of existence and already represent a preliminary phase of our moral judgment.**
- **We begin our rational analysis when we feel that there are important values at stake.**
- **That's why we aim to evoke in us empathy, attention and sensitivity to the values of human experience**

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The emotional response

- **is not yet an articulated moral judgment, but reflects what we consider as morally relevant.**
- **It will therefore be necessary**
  - **to identify the elements present in that response that somehow reflect the moral dimensions of our experience**
  - **to clarify the values and beliefs that determine our way of living in society.**
  - **to articulate clearly what we consider morally important and then to evaluate it in light of the wider Christian moral tradition**

4. Publicly sustaining a reasonable position

The field of ethics is today very open to debate:

- **many different and contrasting positions.**
- **While we must strive to be very precise and coherent in our way of reasoning, we must also learn to be receptive towards legitimate differences, viewpoints and methods.**

Instead of immediately labeling an opinion as negative,

- **we will try to develop the capacity for dialogue and understanding,**
- **We will try to explore strategies to publicly support a reasonable position.**
- **CST: to be assumed after a serious reflection**

5. To strengthen the sense of moral responsibility (life)

The study of ICT

should not be reduced to a theoretical debate on what a person "should" o shouldn't do in society,

It must also have a tangible influence on our practical behavior.

Our study of moral theology

Should move us to put into practice what we perceived as good.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **To become familiar with the main documents issued by the Catholic Church regarding ICT and the basic truths, values and anthropology they propose.**

- **To understand how ICT shape our society and to be aware of the challenges they create for ethics and evangelization.**

- **To acquire a basic knowledge of the evolution of communication and be able to illuminate the ethical challenges of today with the reflection already made in earlier times.**

- **To offer constructive responses to ICT dilemmas in the light of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.**

- **To explore the possibilities of using the new ICT for Pastoral care, liturgy, and evangelization**

- **To become aware of the current relevance of the Franciscan Spirituality and Charism, being able to apply its values and principles to the use of ICT.**

2 Required Texts:

- Lynch, Jonah, *The scent of lemons: technology and relationships in the age of Facebook*, Darton Longman & Todd, London 2012.

- Carbajo Núñez, Martín, *A free and fraternal economy. The Franciscan perspective*, Ed. Tau Publishing, Phoenix, AZ, 2017, 245 pages.

2 Recommended Texts:

- Quinn, Michael J., *Ethics for the Information Age*, Pearson, Boston 2013 (7th edition 2016), ISBN-13: 978-0133741629 List price: $106. The 6th edition will be also valid: List price: $35.

- Spadaro, Antonio, *Cybertheology. Thinking Christianity in the Era of the Internet*, Fordham Univ. Press, New York 2014.

Before the class

The week before, a student will be assigned as leader to start the discussion for each document/commentary with a five-minute presentation.

Students will be required to read both primary sources and secondary texts, which will be the focus of discussions in the class.

Students will come to class :

- having read all the material assigned

- having submitted a half a page written reflection on one of the required readings.

- Those materials indicated as "other possible readings" are recommended, but not required.

Class Format: Expectations

Every lesson will have two different sections:

- the first will focus on one CST foundational document;

- the second will develop a social theme with the magisterial documents cited as part of the discussion.

Consistently thoughtful and active participation in class is essential to the success of this course. Attendance is only a precondition for participation, not the measure of it.
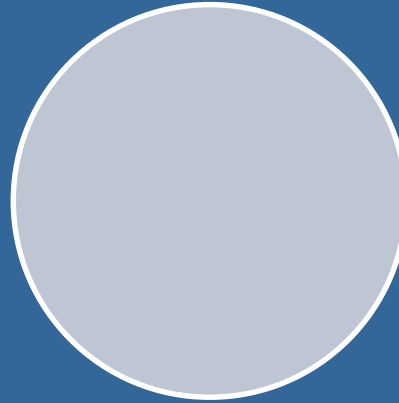
Students are expected to provide well-reasoned contributions to class discussions and be prepared to raise questions in response to the readings

Final exam:

- **There will be a final exam, that could be preceded by a mid-term.**

Expectations

Weekly Assignments and written reflection

- **You should not attempt to cover everything, but simply make one or two points that clarify some aspect of the reading and stimulate thought.**

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You can follow these steps outlined by Richard Gula:

A) • **Identify the subject of the reading (just one brief sentence)**

B) Critical Reflection:
- **2) How does this article/unit affirm your present understanding of the topic.** *In this article I relearned that ...*
- **3) What new insight(s) did you gain from this article/unit?** *I was surprised to learn that ...*
- **4) What questions does this article raise for you?** *I need to think more about ...*

C) Appro-priation:
- **5) Share an anecdote from your life that illustrates your experience with the insights of this article/unit.** *I remember when ...*
- **6) What would it be like to incorporate the insights from this unit to how I think and live?** *If I act upon these insights ...*

Components of the Class (Evaluation procedure)

- **Participation 30%**
- **Weekly Assignments 35%**
- **Final exam 35%**

Grading Scale

- **A 100-95%**
- **A- 94-91%**
- **B+ 90-88%**
- **B 87-80%**

September 4 - Introduction

- 1. **Course overview:** Syllabus, course description and requirements
- 2. **Evolution of communication: from oral to digital culture** (part 1: to be continued in the following lessons)

1)

- A) **Evolution of communication: from oral to digital culture** (part 2).
- B) **Current relevance of the Franciscan spirituality and charism** (part 1)

Read

- Vatican II, "Decree *Inter Mirifica*"
- Carbajo Núñez, Martin, "Current relevance of the Franciscan perspective", in *Verdad y Vida*, 2017.

1)

- A) **Evolution of communication: from oral to digital culture** (part 3).
  - B) **Current relevance of the Franciscan spirituality and charism (part 2)**

Read:

- PCCS, "Pastoral instruction *Communio et progressio*"

- "The Technology of the Book… Evolution of the Species" (*Lynch* 19-42)

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- A) **Ethical challenges in communication technology** (part 1)

Read

- PCCS, "Pastoral instruction *Aetatis Novae* on Social Communications"
- Carbajo Núñez, Martin, «Digital Age Challenges and Consecrated Life», in *Studia Moralia* 53/2 (2015) 269-291.
- Other readings (optional):
  - "Talk about Technologies" (Gardner 15-34)
  - "Ethics after the Information Revolution" (Floridi 3-19)

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- A) **Ethical challenges in communication technology** (part 2)
- B) Communication, communion and community

October 2

Read

- Benedict XVI, "Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization**"**
- MCN 57-66 (Unity in diversity)
- Education... Technological Fast (*Lynch* 63-76)
- Other readings (optional):
  - Rainie Lee - Kathryn Zickhur, "Americans' Views on Mobile Etiquette," *Pew Research Center*, 2015.
  - Hussain, Ishad et al., "Getting closer Being Apart: living in the age of information and communication technologies," in *New Horizons* 2/1 (2017) 1145-147.
  - John Paul II, "Cinema: Communicator of Culture and of Values"

- A) **Hyper-connected generation and discernment**

R e a d

- XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, *Preparatory Document: "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*," Jan. 13, 2017*, LEV, Vatican City 2017.
- Carbajo Núñez, Martín, «Hyper-connected generation and discernment. A Franciscan perspective»
- Other readings (optional):
  - John Paul II, "Mass media: a friendly companion for those in search of the Father"
  - On the diminishing empathy: Konrath Sara -Edward H. O'Brien - Courtney Hsing, "Changes in Dispositional Empathy in American College Students over Time: a Meta-analysis," in *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 15/2 (2011) 180-198.
  - Hussain, Irshad et al., "Getting closer being apart: Living in the Age of Information and communication technologies", in *New Horizons* 11/1 (2017) 145-160.

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- A) **What is ethics?** Codes of ethic
- B) **The use of new technologies in liturgy**

October 23

Read

- PCSC, "Ethics in Internet"
- PCSC, "The Church and Internet"
- New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, On the use of Ipads, tablets, mobile phones etc in liturgy (1 page)
- Quinn cap 2: "Introduction to Ethics" and cap. 9: "Professional Ethics
- Other readings (optional):
  - Benedict XVI, "The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word", (44th World Communications Day), 2010
  - Whittier, David, "Cyber-ethics in the Googling Age", in *The Journal of Education* 187/2 (2006) 1-86.
  - "Liturgy, Sacraments, and Virtual Presence" (*Spadaro* 71-92)

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- A) **Mass Media theories**: How information technology influences human behavior
- B) **Franciscan contribution to Science and technology**

Read

- USCCB, Family Guide for using Media (4 pages)
- USCCB, "Social media guidelines".
- Carbajo Núñez M., "Franciscan contribution to the process of rationalization," (key factor of Modernity), in *Verdad y Vida*, 2017.
- Other readings (optional):
  - Whittier, David, "Cyber-ethics in the Googling Age", in *The Journal of Education* 187/2 (2006) 1-86.
  - "Social Media", in Valkenburg, Patti M. – Piotrowski, Jessica T. *Plugged in*, Yale University Press, Yale 2017, 218-243.

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- A) **Ethical principles to regulate the Media**
- The Franciscan principle of Freedom

Read

- MCN 121-131
- The Obstinacy of the Physical (*Lynch* 43-62)
- Other readings (optional):
  - John Paul II, "Social Communications in the Service of Responsible Human Freedom", (15th World Communications Day), 1981.
  - Benedict XVI, "Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization", 47th World Communications Day, 2013.
  - Rosen, Christine, "Virtual Friendship and the New Narcissism", in *The New Atlantis* 17 (2007) 15-31.
  - Benedict XVI, "The Media: At the Crossroads between Self-Promotion and Service. Searching for the Truth in order to Share it with Others".

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- A) **Communication techniques used by Christians along history**
  - B) **The Spirit of Assisi**: Dialogue to face the current ethical challenges

R e a d

- Francis, "Fake news and journalism for peace" (52nd World Communications Day), 2018
- "The Spirit of Assisi: the contribution by religions to peaceful coexistence in society" (PDF)
- Other readings (optional)
  - Francis, "Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time" (51st World Communications Day), 2017
  - Benedict XVI, "Message to Bishop Domenico Sorrentino on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the interreligious meeting of prayer for peace", 2-09-2006, in *AAS* 98 (2006) 749-754.
  - Francis, "Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter" (50th World Communications Day), 2016.
  - Britton, Karla, *Constructing the ineffable: contemporary sacred architecture,* Yale Univ. press, New Haven CT 2011.

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- A) **Privacy**
- B) **The Franciscan principle of gratuitousness**

November 20

Read

- PCSC, "Ethics in advertising."
- MCN 132-136
- Other readings (optional):
  - Quinn, cap. 5: "Information privacy"
  - Benedict XVI, "New Technologies, New Relationships. Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship", (43rd World Communications Day), 2009.
  - "Everyone is Watching: Privacy and Surveillance in Digital Life" (Miller 111-132)

- A) **Pornography and Violence in the Media**
  - B) **The Franciscan principles of fraternity & Common Good**

November 27

Read

- PCSC, "Pornography and Violence in the Communications Media: a pastoral response"
- MCN 137-146

- Other readings (optional):
  - "Pornography in Cyberspace and Content Controls" (Spinello 65-78).
  - Lipton, Jacquelin D., "Combating Cyber-Victimization", in *Berkeley Technology Law Journal* 26/2 (Spring 2011) 1103-1155.
  - John Paul II, "The communications Media: At the service of understanding among peoples", (39th World Communications Day), 2005.

- A) **Evangelization in the Digital Era**
- **B) Media and the Church**: seven reasons of a complex relationship

December 4

- Benedict XVI, "Silence and Word: Path of Evangelization"
- Benedict XVI, "Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization"
- John Paul II, "Internet: A New Forum for Proclaiming the Gospel"

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- A) **Cyberbullying, exhibitionism, and other online addictions**
  - B) **Current values in line with the Franciscan tradition**

December 11

Read

- Benedict XV: "Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education"
- Francis, "Communication at the Service of an Authentic Culture of Encounter"
- Other readings (optional):
  - Hong, Fu-Yuan – Chiu Su-Lin, "Influencing Facebook Addictive Tendency in University Students", in *Sites and Health* 32 (2016) 117-127.
  - Costa, Elisabetta, "Visual posting: Showing off and shifting boundaries between private and public", in *Social Media in Southeast Turkey* http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1g69z14.7

Bibliografia

- Gardner, Howard – Davis, Katie, *The App generation. How today's youth navigate identity, intimacy and imagination in a digital world*, Yale Univ. press, London 2013.
- Kruse, John V., *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition: a life-giving vision*, Franciscan Institute publications, St. Bonaventure NY 2017.
- Lynch, Jonah, *The scent of lemons: technology and relationships in the age of Facebook*, Darton Longman & Todd, London 2012.
- Blum Christopher O. - Joshua P. Hochschild, *A Mind at Peace: Reclaiming an Ordered Soul in the Age of Distraction*, Sophia Institute Press, Manchester 2017.
- Miller, Vincent, *Understanding digital culture*, Sage, London 2013 (reprint).

Bibliography

- Quinn, Michael J., *Ethics for the Information Age*, 7th Ed., Pearson, Boston 2016.
- Spadaro, Antonio, *Cybertheology: thinking Christianity in the era of the Internet*, Fordham Univ. Press, New York 2014.
- Spinello, Richard A., *CyberEthics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace*, 6th edition, Jones & Barlett Learning, Burlington, MA 2017.
- Turkle, Sherry, *Alone Together Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*, 3rd ed., Basic Books, New York 2017.

The syllabus and other materials will be available also at

- **www.antoniano.org**

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