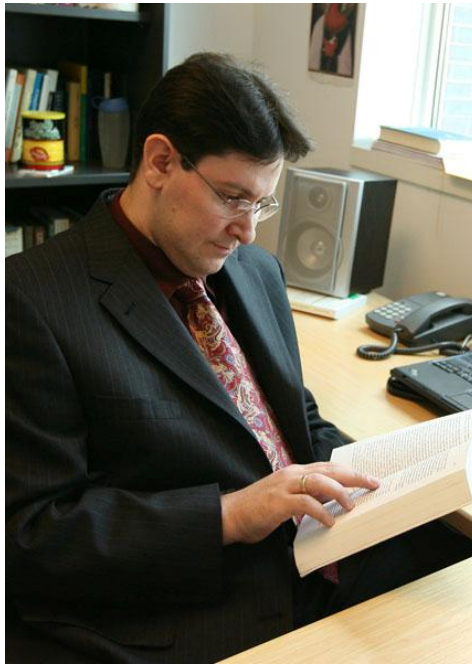




TOPIC

Ethical Pluralism & American Culture

LECTURER



Prof. Robert Delfino
St. John's University
New York, USA

PURPOSE

"I teach students about morality, purpose in life, and God and I tie these themes in with St. Vincent's emphasis on love and care of one's neighbor. I am constantly encouraging them to think about their life, its meaning and purpose and to consider carefully what goals they want to pursue."

America is a nation dominated by two parties, Democrats and Republicans, and two, loosely defined, political theories, liberalism and conservatism. Against this political backdrop, proponents of various ethical theories, such as Neo-Kantians, Utilitarians, Virtue ethicists, Feminists, Environmentalists, etc., fight over how to handle issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and stem-cell research. This course will give insight into American culture by discussing the philosophical foundations of these political and ethical disagreements. In particular, we will focus on the philosophical foundations of liberalism, examining its weaknesses and how it can lead to a "culture of death" as discussed by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*.

TIME

17 – 22 May 2010

ECTS

2 points (30 hours lecture)