[](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/c/c0/Deadmanwalkingp.jpg/215px-Deadmanwalkingp.jpg&imgrefurl=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Man_Walking_(film)&h=323&w=215&tbnid=p816dUDC0LJMyM:&zoom=1&docid=kiLxb1Wgm1qstM&ei=fOLtVNX3GcingwTT_4KQAw&tbm=isch&ved=0CDEQMygTMBM)

*Dead Man Walking*

A film by Tim Robbins starring:

Susan Sarandon

and

Sean Penn

Inspired by the true story of a nun’s relationship with a condemned man, this provocative examination of crime, punishment and redemption earned Susan Sarandon the 1995 Oscar for *Best Actress* and Sean Penn an Oscar nomination for *Best Actor*. *Dead Man Walking* is a “fast-moving and absorbing” film filled with “genuine suspense” (Variety) that will leave you awe-struck from beginning to end.

Sister Helen Prejean (Sarandon), a compassionate New Orleans nun, is the spiritual advisor to Matthew Poncelet (Penn), a vicious, angry and complex murderer awaiting execution. Her dedication is to help others, like Matthew, find salvation. But as she attempts to navigate Matthew’s dark soul, she encounters a depth of evil that makes her question how far redemption can really go. Can she stave off the fateful day of execution long enough to save Matthew, or will she discover a truth that will rock the very foundation by which she lives he life?

Assignment

Dead Man Walking was written to stimulate thought. The film contains multi-layered and multi-faceted viewpoints on issues in contemporary society, including the death penalty and faith.

Over the course of this semester, you have read and learned about a number of concepts which are found in the Introduction through Chapters 5 of *Your Life in Christ*: *Foundations in Catholic Morality*. An example of the concepts include: a) morality/ living a moral life, b) freedom, c) cardinal virtues, d) what it means to be human, e) our place in creation, f) human dignity, g) humans created in the image of God, h) imputable, i) Jesus as a moral guide, j) prayer, k) justification, and l) charisms.

Choose 10 concepts (**not limited** to the ones mentioned above) and be sure to include some from each of the chapters. **Bold or underline** each of the concepts (if you repeat a concept, highlight it only once). Weaving 10 concepts into one narrative, please respond to the following questions in essay form:

1. Which concepts apply to Matthew Poncelet as he wrestled with and lived out a life of crime? Explain each.

Morality/living a moral life, free will, cardinal virtues

1. In what way did Poncelet’s actions affect others? Be specific.

Imputable, circumstances, conformity

1. Sr. Helen Prejean thought that killing people to teach them not to kill people made no sense. What is your opinion? Please elaborate.

Natural law, responsibility

1. Sr. Helen is an eager servant of God, whose mission is to “save” Matthew. In your opinion, did she succeed?

Prayer, justification, charisms

1. Which scene(s) captivated you? Why?

Human dignity, humans created in the image of God

See next page for specific essay guidelines . . .

Essay guidelines:

This project serves as a review of the semester and, therefore, the point value is the equivalent of a test. This essay will affect your final grade for the 4th quarter, so put forth your best effort. Your grade will be based on the following:

1. You have followed precise directions.
2. The application of each concept you’ve chosen makes sense and is well explained.
3. Your writing shows careful thought and analysis of the concepts.
4. Your explanation shows that you understand each concept.
5. You have included concepts from each chapter (Intro – chapter 5).
6. Your paper is submitted on time, in class.

2 pages (minimum - not maximum)

Double-spaced

Stapled!

12 font – 1” margins

Due date: Monday, April 11th – D day – in class

Points: 45