WELCOME
In this course, you will learn about the Roman Catholic Church’s commitment to justice as essential to proclaiming the Gospel. It is an intensive study of the theological, philosophical, and historical development of the Catholic social vision and the sharing of this vision through teaching, witness, and pastoral services intended to address human needs throughout the world.

Course Description
This is a seminar course focused on the Roman Catholic social teaching as expressed in the encyclical tradition from Leo XIII to Pope Francis and the Regional Bishops’ Conferences of the Catholic Church. The study will examine the development of Catholic social thought as it emerges from the reading of the “signs of the times” in light of sacred scripture, natural law, and virtue.

The course goals align with the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology Institutional Goals, which identify significant aspects of theological learning and leadership formation. We will evaluate our progress in achieving these goals throughout the course.

Deep Learning
Knowledge of facts, details, concepts, and terminology that students will become familiar with in this course

Collaborative Leadership
A collaborative leader inspires within others the desire to realize the common good by articulating to academy or society a coherent vision rooted in the mission of the Church, all the while leading by example.

- identify political and social challenges to justice and peace in contemporary society
- acquire a good understanding of the social justice teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- learn methods by which the Church responds to "signs of the times" through awareness of social needs, study, reflection, and decision.
- articulate orally and in writing key aspects of social justice theory and praxis
- draw implications for research and ministry from the study of Catholic social teaching
- develop strategies to address issues related to economic justice, human rights, non-violence and peace, environmental justice, and other concerns.
Course Materials

Required: Prices do not include tax and shipping costs.


Readings on Moodle (To be posted)

Resources for Encyclicals and Other Writings

Recommended:


Dorr, Donal: Option for the Poor: A Hundred Years of Catholic Social Teaching.


**Course Requirements**

*Class Participation:* 40% of grade (See DSPT Student Handbook about absences p. 17)

Class Discussions: Students will come to class having read all the material assigned, with notes and questions that arise from the readings.

*Class Writing:* 45% of grade. Papers should evidence of the class readings and discussions. Format should follow Turabian style and including bibliography. See the DSPT Student Handbook regarding Academic Honesty (pp. 16-17)

Paper #1  Topic: What does the Church mean by social justice? How do we come to understand God’s will for us as local, national, and global communities, i.e., the pastoral circle process? How do philosophy, other disciplines in academic fields, and those of social science inform this vision? How is the “irruption of reality” [Sobrino] shaping our understanding of social justice? In what ways can we as Catholic community witness to God’s mercy help us to witness to this vision?  DUE OCTOBER 9

Paper #2  Topic: Should the Church Give Economic Advice? Compare and contrast one papal encyclical with any one regional statement on the syllabus related to economic justice. How are these teachings reflective of the Church’s understanding of social justice? How do they address global and national economic concerns? What specific recommendations do they propose? What is your evaluation of these recommendations? Looking at these documents, how would you make a case for the Church to have a voice in such economic policy debates?  DUE NOVEMBER 13

Paper #3  Topic: The Catholic Church as a Broker for Peace? Based on the Church’s reflection on non-violence and peace show how the Church’s teachings might address a particular conflict present in our world today. How effective might the recommendations made by the whole Church and that of regional churches promote peace in these areas? What role do human rights and human rights conventions have in these suggestions? DUE DECEMBER 19

Group Presentation 15% of grade Choose a topic: Immigration, Family, Human Trafficking, Environmental Crisis. Each group will present the topic to the class and engage the class in discussion. Details will be given.
READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Catholic Social Teaching: A Vision, Witness and Promise

Week 1: September 4: Catholic Social Teaching: What Do We Mean by Vision?
Introduction: Sharing about your program of study and understanding of how this course fits into your program.

As you reading the following chapters come to class prepared to discuss these questions:
What is Catholic social teaching? What are the sources of this teaching?
What is Kasper suggesting by his introductory chapters? What is contextual theology?

Hornsby: Chapters 1 and 2
Kasper: Chapters 1 and 2
Moodle: Jon Sobrino “Jesus from the Salvadoran Context: Compassion, Hope and Following the Light of the Cross” and William Spohn, “What are They Saying about Scripture and Ethics?”

Week 2: September 11
Catholic Social Teaching: Biblical Roots
Himes, Chapter 1
Hornsby-Smith, Chapter 3, 4
Kasper: Chapters 3, 4, 5
Moodle: (Optional Reading) Excerpts from Pleins and Kavanugh

Week 3: September 18
Reading and Group Discussion

Week 4: September 25: Catholic Social Teaching: The Ecclesiological Roots
Himes, Chapters 3 and 4
Kasper: Chapters 6-8

Week 5: October 2: Catholic Social Teaching: Natural Law and Virtue Theory
Himes, Chapter 2
Hornsby-Smith Chapter 5
Moodle: Articles by Schockenhoff and Porter which refer to Aquinas, Summa theologiae, II, II, qq. 23-46 (Charity), qq. 57-80 (Justice).

Week 6: October 9: Economic Justice: Labor and Power
Hornsby-Smith, Chapter 8
Himes, Chapters 5, 6, 16

Week 7: October 16: Economic Justice: Just Development

**Himes: Chapters 12 and 17**

**EVALUATION:** Looking at the course thus far and our experiences of readings, discussions, and assigned writings

**Reading Week: October 20-24**

**Week 8: October 30:** Economic Justice: Local Realities and Responses
Regional Statements
Latin America: Medellin Conference Documents, 1968
United States: *Economic Justice for All*, 1986

Hornsby-Smith, Chapters 9 and 10
Himes, Chapter 19

**Week 9: November 6:** Human Rights and Responsibilities
Encyclical: John XIII *Peace on Earth*, 1963

Vatican II Documents
Apostolic Constitution, *(Gaudium et spes)* 1965; *Human Dignity*, 1965

Statement of the Synod of Bishops, *Justice in the World*, 1971

Hornsby-Smith, Chapters 6 and 7
Himes, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 14

**Week 10: November 13:** Non-Violence and Peace
*The Challenge of Peace* and the *Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*: United States
Recent Statements: War and Terrorism Global and Regional Struggles
(Readings TBA) website:
http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/warandpeaceind.shtml

Hornsby-Smith, Chapter 11
Himes, Chapter 20
Excerpts from Pope Francis Homilies and Talks in the Holy Land Visit May 2014

Non-Violence and Peace and Reconciliation
Regional Statements: African Synod of 2009
http://sites.google.com/site/yesafricamattersorg/Yes-Africa-Matters/resources-and-upcoming-events/articles
Weeks 11-12: November 20- December 4
Immigration, Family, Human Trafficking, and the Environment

**Topic: Immigration and Inter-cultural Challenges**
Catholic Bishops of Mexico and United States
*Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope*, 2003

**Topic: Issue and Concerns of the Family**
John Paul II *Familiaris Consortio*
Selections from 2014 Synod on the Family

Hornsby-Smith: Chapter 7
Federation of Asian Catholic Bishops and US Catholic Bishops (See websites)

**Topic: Human Trafficking**
International and Regional Statements of Civil and Religious Groups
[http://www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and [http://www.humatrafficking.org](http://www.humatrafficking.org) and [http://www.notforsale.org](http://www.notforsale.org)

**Topic: Environmental Justice**
US Catholic Bishops *Renewing the Earth*
http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/bishopsstatement.shtml

Moodle: Chapters from Thompson, Smith, De La Torre, and Jadhav

**Week 13: December 11**
First Part: Finishing up Material from December 4 Class
Second Part: Leadership and Vision: Future of Catholic Social Teaching
Hornsby-Smith, Chapter 12
Himes, Chapter 21

**EVALUATION: Reflections on the course**