

INAF 434 The Catholic Peace Tradition

XCath, XJUPS, XTheo

Drew Christiansen, S. J.

T/Th 3:30-4:45

Overview. This course will examine the rich tradition of peacemaking in the Catholic Tradition. Beginning with the New Testament, it will examine classic texts, figures and movements.

It will look more closely at late twentieth-century developments, the Catholic Left, the Mennonite-Catholic Dialogue; contemporary movements, such as the Catholic Peacebuilding Network and peacemaking through interreligious dialogue.

It will look at exemplars like Franz Jagerstatter, Dorothy Day, the Berrigans, Charles de Foucauld and the monks of Tibherine. Emphasis will be placed on peacemaking as a way of life linking ethics, virtues, spirituality and social praxis.

Among the special issues to be debated will be: Response to Religious Militants, Holy War, Selective Conscientious Objection, and the Morality of Protest.

Course Objectives include: (1) knowledge of the historical development of peacemaking in the Catholic Tradition; (2) appreciation of the different approaches to peacemaking (e.g., nonresistance, nonviolence, civil disobedience, conflict transformation, peacebuilding and religious witness), and (3) the acquisition of communication skills to advance peacemaking within the church, ecumenical and interfaith situations, and in public discussion.

The Instructor: *Father Drew Christiansen, S. J.* is Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Global Human Development and a senior research fellow at the Berkley Center. For 16 years, he worked for the U.S. bishops as director of their Office of International Justice and Peace and as counselor for international affairs. In those roles, he worked in conflict situations in the Middle East, the Balkans, Central America and the Caribbean.

Fr. Christiansen was a founding member of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network. He was a member of the International Mennonite-Catholic Dialogue whose report "Called Together to be Peacemakers" broke new ground in ecumenical peacemaking. He is currently a consultant to the Holy See on nuclear disarmament and a member of a working group on countering violent extremism of the Middle East Strategic Taskforce at the Atlantic Council.

Textbooks.

Michael G. Long, **Christian Peace and Nonviolence: A Documentary History**;

Daniel Berrigan and Robert Coles, **The Geography of Faith**;

Thomas Merton, **Passion for Peace: The Social Essays**;

Terrence J. Rynne, **Gandhi and Jesus**;

Ali Merad, **A Christian Hermit in an Islamic World**;
Christian Salenson, **Christian de Chergé: A Theology of Hope**;
Robert Schreiter, ed. **Peacebuilding**.

Course Requirements include active class participation, three short written exercises or papers, 2-4pp (op-eds, open letters, speeches, etc.) and a book report on the biography of a peacemaker. The final exam will consist in submission of the book review and an oral exam.

Weekly Class Schedule

- Jan. 14** Introduction and Overview.
The Biblical Vision of Peace (*Shalom*): The Hebrew Scriptures
Reading: Long, **Christian Peace and Nonviolence**, 2-7.
- Jan. 19** New Testament Teaching: “Blessed are the Peacemakers”
Lecture: New Testament on peace, nonviolence and reconciliation.
Reading: Long, 8-14.
- Jan. 21** Early Christian Teaching and Witness
Lecture: Martyrs, Soldiers and Monks.
Reading: Long: 15-37
- Jan. 26** Early Christian Teaching and Witness
Lecture: Martyrs, Soldiers and Monks.
Reading: Long: 15-37
- Jan. 28** Voices of Latin Antiquity
Lecture: Nonviolence and the Just War
in the Late Roman Empire and the Early Middle Ages.
Reading: Long, 39-55.
- Feb. 2** Medieval Developments
Reading: Long, 56-70.
FIRST PAPER TOPICS TO BE ANNOUNCED
- Feb. 4** FISHBOWL EXERCISE
“How would you respond to the barbarian invasion//
or a call to a Crusade?”
- Feb. 9** Christian Humanists and Scholastics
Reading: Long, 71-75; 77-78; 89-93.
FIRST PAPER DUE

- Feb. 11** The Anabaptist Witness
 Reading: Long: 74-77; 81-89, 288-292. Excerpts from “Called Together to Be Peacemakers” (to be provided on Blackboard).
 Lecture: Catholics and Mennonites Today.
 GUEST RESPONDENT
- Feb. 16** World War II and the Rise of Catholic Pacifism
 Lecture
 Reading: Long: 161-163, 174-176; 199-212.
 Other Selected Readings to be provided.
- Feb. 18** World War II Pacifism
 Readings: Special readings on Franz Jaegerstatter, Gordon Zahn and others.
- Feb. 23** FISHBOWL EXERCISE: SHOULD THE U.S. PERMIT SELECTIVE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION?
 Reading: Materials to be provided on Blackboard.
- Feb. 25** Vatican II and Vietnam
 Readings: Selections from *Gaudium et spes* (Church in the Modern World), Douglass, “The Nonviolent Cross” in Long, 216-18; U.S. Bishops, 1970 Pastoral Letter and other sources.
 SECOND PAPER TOPICS TO BE ANNOUNCED
- Mar. 3** The Catholic Left
 Reading: Berrigan and Coles, **The Geography of Faith**.
 SECOND PAPER DUE
- MIDSEMESTER CONVERSATIONS, March 15-17, Old North 324.
 (Sign-ups in class.)
- Mar. 5-12** SPRING BREAK
- Mar. 15** Voices of Nonviolence
 Reading in Long: Day, 171-73; Chavez, 221-223; Camara, 235-37; S. Douglas, 239-41; Romero, 243-246; Egan, 286-88; Forest, 210-13.
 EXPLANATION OF DEBATE TOPIC AND PROCEDURES. TEAMS VOLUNTEER.
- March 17** Thomas Merton I
 Readings: Selections from Shannon, ed., **The Passion for Peace**, TBA.
 Short Lecture: Contemplation and Resistance.

END-TERM BIOGRAPHY SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

March 22 Thomas Merton II
Readings: Selections from **The Passion for Peace**, TBA
DEBATE: THE MORALITY OF PROTEST.

March 23-28 EASTER BREAK

March 29 Official Catholic Teaching on Nonviolence; Catholic
Peacebuilding
Readings: from Long, Friessen and Stassen, 277-281; from
Schreiter et al, **Peacebuilding**, TBA and other
Sources, TBA.
Lecture: From Just War to Nonviolence to Peacebuilding.

SPECIAL SEGMENT ON PEACEMAKING THROUGH INTERRELIGIOUS
DIALOGUE: MUSLIMS AND CATHOLICS

March 31 Peacebuilding II
Reading: Selections from **Peacebuilding**, TBA.

April 5 Charles de la Foucauld II
Reading: Excerpt from Dorothy C. Buck, **Dialogues with Saints
and Mystics**, 41-63. Ali Merad, **A Christian Hermit in the
Muslim World**.
GUEST DIALOGUE ON CHRISTIAN MUSLIM DIALOGUE

April 7 Louis Massignon and Mary Khalil
Reading: Buck, 63-90, 139-165.
WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT: View the film "Of Gods and Men."
THIRD PAPER TOPICS ANNOUNCED

April 12 FILM DISCUSSION "*OF GODS AND MEN*" with INVITED GUESTS.
BEGIN READING BIOGRAPHY BY THIS DATE.

April 14 Christian de Chergé
Reading: Excerpts from Salenson, **Christian de Chergé**, TBA

SPECIAL SEGMENT: CATHOLICS AND GANDHIAN NONVIOLENCE

April 19 Gandhi on Nonviolence
Reading: **Gandhi and Jesus**, 21-83
THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE.

April 21 Gandhi and Jesus
Reading: 115-124; 153-186.

Short Lecture: Varieties of Catholic Peacemaking.
WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT: View the film "GANDHI." Excerpt from

- April 26** FILM DISCUSSION OF "GANDHI."
BRING DEVICES FOR CLASS EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE.
ARRANGEMENTS FOR FISHBOWL APRIL 28.
- April 28** FISHBOWL EXERCISE: "PROS AND CONS: WHAT'S YOUR
CHOICE OF A PEACEMAKING STYLE?"
- May 9** ORAL EXAMS, Old North 324.
REPORT ON BIOGRAPHY DUE WITH FINAL EXAM.