COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY NAME: Kenneth M. Diable

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E-MAIL: ourparsonage@lightsp.com FAX: (814) 443-3195

OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE NUMBER: RS 205.01 COURSE TITLE: Justice and Human Rights

TERM: Fall 2006 COURSE TIME: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:50am

Room #: AC 113 COURSE CREDITS: 3 credit hrs.--classroom

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Department of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Theology at Mount Aloysius College is to encourage students to consider their lives in the larger context of human society, by attending to the fundamental spiritual quest for truth. It draws particularly from the Catholic tradition, based on the belief in God revealed through scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ.

The department serves all members of the College community regardless of religious commitment. While rooted in Catholic tradition, the department does not insist on knowledge of, or active participation in, Catholic tradition as a prerequisite. Instead, it seeks to offer all students a chance to explore questions common to all human beings, paying particular attention to the Catholic tradition as a resource for addressing these questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the social teachings of the Catholic Tradition. The following topics will be covered: peace and justice, right to food, meaning of work, homelessness, conscience, human rights, and human dignity.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Policy on Academic Honesty and Integrity in the College Catalog, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the test or assignment. Instructors will
further determine appropriate action in response to the violation of academic integrity.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability which many require special consideration, you should notify the professor. This should be accomplished no later than the second class meeting. If you should need accommodations for successful participation in class activities, you should offer information in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs which includes suggestions for assistance in participating in and completing class assignments. It is not necessary to disclose the nature of your disability.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

The student will develop a rudimentary understanding of the biblical meaning and significance of justice, peace, the preferential option for the poor, human responsibility to society and one another as well as possible models for living now in the world under the rulership of God.

The student will learn what it means to be human according to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the Apostolic Witness (New Testament) and how that might impact upon life in the 21st century.

The student will learn to distinguish between the present and future rulership of God, and human rulership in the world

The student will critique the American system of Justice, peace-making, economic, social and political freedoms in light of protestant, Catholic and world religious understandings of justice and human rights.

The student will develop an understanding of the complexity as well as the simplicity of responding to the issues of justice, peace, political prioritization, economic and social well-being in this world.

The student will develop and understanding of the influence of Catholic social justice traditions in our world today.
GRADING SYSTEM

3.50 to 4.0+ equals A
3.25 to 3.49 equals B+
3.00 to 3.24 equals B
2.50 to 2.99 equals C+
2.00 to 2.49 equals C
1.01 to 1.99 equals D
1.00 or less equals F

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The student will read the assigned pages in the textbook on the designated day for discussion.

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE ENTERED INTO THE DAILY DISCUSSION IN CLASS.

THE STUDENT WILL ATTEND CLASS REGULARLY—1/4 OF THE GRADE WILL DEPEND UPON ATTENDANCE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Classes Missed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-5+</td>
<td>0</td>
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The Student will have written a book review on Thomas Massaro, *Living Justice*. The Book review will be due on **Tuesday November 22**—class time will be used for discussing this review on that day. (1/4 of grade)

The student will have completed and handed in **ON TIME** a mid-term examination (1/4 of grade).

The student will have completed and handed in **ON TIME** a final examination (1/4 of grade).

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/29</td>
<td>Introductory material, no assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/30</td>
<td>Introductory material, no assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/05</td>
<td>Declaration of Independence, Articles of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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| 09/07 | Confederation, US Constitution  
Gustafson, Introduction and Chapter 1 |
| 09/12 | Maguire, Chapters 1 and 2  
09/14 | Maguire, Chapter 3 |
| 09/19 | Gustafson, Chapters 2 and 3  
09/21 | Maguire, Chapter 4 |
| 09/26 | Maguire, Chapter 5  
09/28 | Gustafson, Chapter 4 **MID-TERM HANDED OUT** |
| 10/03 | Gustafson, Chapter 5  
10/05 | Gustafson, Chapter 6 |
| 10/10 | Gustafson, Chapter 7  
10/12 | Maguire, Chapters, 6 and 7  
**MID-TERM DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS** |
| 10/17 | **NO CLASS MID-TERM BREAK** |
| 10/19 | Maguire, Chapter 8 |
| 10/24 | Maguire, Chapter 9  
10/26 | Maguire, Chapter 10 |
| 10/28 | Maguire, Chapters 11 and 12  
10/30 | **REDEFINING JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS** |
| 11/08 | Is there such a thing as a just war?—readings to be assigned  
11/10 | Abortion and Euthanasia—readings to be assigned |
| 11/15 | biomedical research, e.g., stem cell research—readings to be assigned  
11/17 | The war on terrorism—readings to be assigned |
| 11/21 | The Patriot Act—read the text of the Patriot Act  
11/23 | **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING DAY** |
| 11/28 | The sex business in America—readings to be assigned  
11/30 | Poverty in America—readings To Be Assigned  
**FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT** |
| 12/05 | Peace in the World—readings To Be Assigned  
12/07 | American Government—readings To Be Assigned |
12/12  Education in America—readings To Be Assigned
12/14  Conclusions to be drawn

LAST DAY OF CLASS
FINALS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


A Bible—one of the following: Revised Standard Version, New English Bible, New American Standard, New King James, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version

AUXILIARY TEXTS


Augustine, The City of God (various translations).


O’Brien, David J. and Thomas A. Shannon, eds. Catholic Social


NOVELS

