

COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY NAME: Kenneth M. Diable

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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 REGULARY—1/4 OF THE GRADE WILL DEPEND UPON ATTENDANCE.

0-2 classes missed-4.0
3 classes missed-3.0
4 classes missed-2.0
5-5+ classes missed-0

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

08/29 Introductory material, no assignment
08/30 Introductory material, no assignment

09/05 Declaration of Independence, Articles of

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

Gustafson, Scott W. *Biblical Amnesia*. West Conshohocken:
Infinity Publishing.com, 2004.

Maguire, Daniel C. *A Moral Creed for All Christians*.
Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Massaro, Thomas, S.J. *Living Justice, Catholic Social Teaching
in Action*. Lanham, Chicago, New York and Oxford: Sheed &
Ward, 2000.

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

Abbott, Walter M., S.J. ed. *The documents of Vat. II*. New York:
Guild Press, 1966.

Augustine, *The City of God* (various translations).

Barnet, Richard, J. *Roots of War*. New York: Atheneum, 1972.

Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckman. *The social Construction of
Reality*. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967.

Berger, Peter. *A Rumor of Angels*. Garden City: Doubleday &
Company, Inc., 1969.

Bernardin, Joseph Cardinal. *Consistent Ethic of Life*. Edited by
Thomas G. Fuechtmann. Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1988.

Bettsworth, Roger G. *Social Ethics an Examination of American
Moral Traditions*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press,
1990.

- Challenge of Peace, The God's Promise and Our Response, The* (A Pastoral Letter on War and Peace—The National Conference of Catholic Bishops). Washington D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1983.
- Coleman, John A., ed. *One Hundred Years of Catholic Social Thought: Celebration and Challenge*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1991.
- Cone, James H. *God of the Oppressed*. Revised Edition. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1997.
- Coward, Harold, ed. *Population, Consumption, and the Environment: Religious and Secular Responses*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1995.
- Dark David. *The Gospel According to America*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox press, 2005.
- Drinan, Robert F. *The Cry of the Oppressed*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.
- Dwyer, Judith A., ed. *The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1994.
- Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993.
- Eisler, Raine. *The Chalice & The Blade*. San Francisco: HarperSanfrancisco, 1987.
- Ferm, Deane William, ed. *Third World Liberation Theologies A Reader*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1986.
- Fremantle, Anne, ed. *The Papal Encyclicals in Their Historical Context*. Expanded. New York: Mentor-Omega Books, 1963.
- Glendon, Mary Ann. *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. New York: Random House, 2001.
- Haughey, John C., ed. *The Faith that Does Justice: Examining the Christian Sources for Social Change*. New York: Paulist Press, 1977.
- Heinecken, Martin. *Christian Teachings*. Philadelphia: Fortress

Press, 1967.

Hintz, Sandy. *Peace Talk*. Hales Corners: SCJ Office of Justice and Peace, Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers, 1983. **N.B. several copies on Library reserve.**

Henriot, Peter J., Edward P. DeBerri and Michael J. Schultheis. *Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1985.

Hanigan, James P. *As I Have Loved You The Challenge of Christian Ethics*. New York and Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1986.

Horgan, John. *Mary Robinson: a woman of Ireland and the World*. Niwot: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1997.

John Paul II, Pope. *On Human Work (Laborem Exercens)*. Boston: Daughters of St. Paul, 1981.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Rachel and Her Children Homeless Families in America*. New York: Ballentine Books, 1988.

Lauren, Paul Gordon. *The Evolution of International Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998.

Leiden, Carl and Karl M. Schmitt. *The Politics of Violence: Revolution in the Modern World*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1968.

Lens, Sidney. *Poverty: America's Enduring Paradox*. Updated Edition. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1971.

Maguire, Daniel C. *The Moral Core of Judaism and Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Maguire, Daniel C. and Larry L. Rasmussen. *Ethics for a Small Planet*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions—Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops." Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1998.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper & Row, 1951.

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

Teaching: The Documentary Heritage. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1992.

Pawlikowski, John T., O.S.M. and Donald Senior, C.P., eds. *Biblical and Theological reflections on the Challenge of Peace.* THEOLOGY AND LIFE, Vol. 10. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1984.

Phan, Peter C., ed. *Social Thought: Messages of the Fathers of the Church.* Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.

Prejean, Helen. *Dead man Walking: An Eye Witness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States.* New York: Random House 1993.

Stackhouse, Max L. *Creeds, Society, and Human Rights Study in Three Cultures.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Company, 1984.

Wallis, Jim, *God's Politics A New Vision for Faith and Politics in America.* New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.

NOVELS

Quinn, Daniel. *Ishmael.* New York: Bantam/Turner Books, 1995.

_____. *The Story of B.* New York: Bantam Books, 1997.

_____. *My Ishmael.* New York: Bantam Books, 1997.