

TESP 46 Faith, Justice, Poverty - 54480: Winter 2010

Instructor James W. Reites, S.J.
Home Phone 408-554-4124
Office Phone 408-554-6959
Office Address Kenna 300B
Office Hours 1:30-2:30 PM MW
E-mail Via the Course Website: <http://angel.scu.edu>
Location Kenna 104
Times 3:30-5:15 PM MW

Required Texts

The Catholic Study Bible

Gustavo Gutiérrez, *We Drink From Our Own Wells*, New York: Orbis Books, 1984.

J. Milburn Thompson, *Justice and Peace*, New York: Orbis Books, 2003.

Dorothy Day, *Selected Writings*, New York: Orbis Books, 1992.

H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 2003.

Course Description

This course examines biblical theologies of social responsibility, major theologians of poverty, and current appropriation of these traditions. Mandatory Arrupe Center placement.

As a second level Religious Studies Course, TESP 46 is related to the Core Curriculum Theme of "Reaching Out." It looks to global issues. The course will focus on issues of Christian Spirituality and how faith is lived out experientially on a global level.

Course Objectives

1. Knowledge: of the relationship between faith, justice, and poverty in the Catholic tradition, current theological expressions of the relationship, and a critical understanding the faith that promotes justice; of the value of community based learning.
2. Skills: ability to critically read and critique religious and theological statements and articles; ability to extract assumptions; ability to appreciate different points of view; ability to apply theological learning to community based learning.
3. Sensitivities: to the subtlety of religious and theological argument; to the requirement of faith to promote justice; to the socio-historical context of poverty.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

M Jan. 4 Introduction: Method and Meaning; Context and Vision; Solidarity and Learning.

Reading: Francis Smith, S.J., Faith. [ANGEL]

W Jan. 6 "Poverty means death", from Gutiérrez, p. 9.

Reading: Gutiérrez, Forward, Introduction, Ch. 1-3, pp. vii-53.

Week 2

M Jan. 11 "Acting ourselves into ways of thinking."

Reading: Gutiérrez, Part 2, Ch. 4-5, pp. 54-89.

W Jan. 13 "Free to Love"

Reading: Gutiérrez, Part 3, Ch. 6-10, Conclusion, pp. 91-137.

Week 3

M Jan. 18 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day - Holiday

W Jan. 20 In Light of Scripture

Reading: Exodus 1.1 - 15:27
Genesis 1.1 - 4:26
Deuteronomy 5:1 - 5:22 (the decalogue), 6:1 - 6:25 (the covenant code).
Deuteronomy 26:5 - 26:10 ("Remember, oh Israel...").
Isaiah Chapters 1 - 39. (Look especially at 1:1-17 [What is the nature of the sinfulness of the people?]),
Isaiah Chapters 3:14-15,
Isaiah Chapters 5:8 (What are the actual social conditions of the poor?).
Isaiah Chapters 10:2 (What is Justice?).
Isaiah 29:18-19, 35:3-6 (What is the Good News for the poor?).
Matthew 25: 31-46; Luke 10: 25-37; John 8:1-12.

Week 4

M Jan. 25 The State of Things, Part 1

Reading: Thompson, Ch. 1-2, pp. 1-61.

W Jan. 27 The State of Things, Part 2

Reading: Thompson, Ch. 3-5, pp. 62-148.

First Paper Due

Week 5

M Feb. 1 The State of Things, Part 3

Reading: Thompson, Ch. 6-8, pp. 148-204.

W Feb. 3 **TBA**

Week 6

M Feb. 8 Christ and Culture: Various Christian Approaches to Social Ethics

Reading: Niebuhr, Ch. 1-2, Forward, Preface, Introduction, pp. xi-lv, 1-82.

W Feb. 10 Christ and Culture: Several Civil Religions

Reading: Niebuhr, Ch. 3-4, pp. 83-148.

Week 7

M Feb. 15 Presidents' Day - Holiday

W Feb. 17 Christ and Culture: Several Civil Religions

Reading: Niebuhr, Ch. 5-7, pp. 149-256.

Week 8

M Feb. 22 Radical Catholic Spirituality of Service

Reading: Day, pp. xi - 48.

<http://www.catholicworker.org/index.cfm>

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=538>

Second Paper Due

W Feb. 24 Works of Mercy

Reading: Day, pp. 51 - 119.

Week 9

M Mar. 1 Works of Mercy

Reading: Day, pp. 123-203.

W Mar. 3 Catholic Social Doctrine

Reading: Day, pp. 207-257.

Week 10

M Mar. 8 Politics and Principles

Reading: Day, pp. 261-363.

W Mar. 11 Norms, Axioms and Action

Reading: Thompson, pp., 175-220.

Final Exam Schedule: Friday, Mar 19, 2009, 1:30 - 4:30 PM.

Course Requirements

Arrupe Placement

A carefully selected Arrupe Center placement (or SCCAP placement with the explicit agreement of the professor), providing sustained direct contact with poor, marginalized or otherwise disadvantaged people, is essential to the course. The clients at the placements, in their social contexts, will be your teachers and your conversation partners; they will provide you with valuable clues as you come to understand the fuller meaning of the assigned religious texts, the emerging ideas, practices and praxes that you encounter in the course.

The clients of your placements are conversation partners are to be treated with extraordinary care and respect; the rules of discretion (basic norms of confidentiality and professional conduct), will be explained and expected. Attendance at the placement, as at class, is contractual, i.e., you are expected to fulfill the commitments that you make.

Quizzes

There will be short quizzes. They will consist for the most part on the reading assigned. The aim is to assess the quality of the reading.

Papers

There will be two papers. The first is an analysis and reflection on "Faith, Justice, and Poverty" (3-5 pages). See the course website for details. The second paper will be an analysis and reflection on the theological meaning of "Justice" (5-6 page). Again, see the course website for details. Papers must be submitted to Turnitin.com, course 3044186

Participation

Participation in the class discussions is important part of the course. Individual students will be assigned to lead the discussion. The leader will prepare notes and questions for the discussion.

Attendance

Attendance is required and recorded daily. You may miss two classes for whatever reason. Each class after that will result in a loss of 10 percentage points on the Participation and Attendance part of the grade. Tardiness will result in a loss of 5 percentage points.

Examinations

The midterm is on Wednesday, February 3, covering the material studied up to that point. The final will be a paper making a synthesis on the material covered throughout the Quarter.

On Line Materials

ANGEL: You will find the detailed syllabus, calendar, and course materials on the SCU's Internet site, <http://angel.scu.edu>. You will need to create your own account by going to the site, clicking on the "Request and Account" tab and fill in the information. Your password will be sent to you by email, and will enable you to enroll in to the course account. When you get your password, go to the ANGEL website, click on the "Find a Course" tab. Search on my name "Reites", select the course, TESP 46, and put in the PIN: solidarity. This will enroll you in the course. Note that with the new ANGEL system, you may already be enrolled in the class and it will appear when you log into ANGEL.

Grading Policy

The class will be taught by lecture and discussion. There will be a midterm examination [20% of grade], a final, comprehensive Paper [30% of the grade], and two written assignments [30% of grade]. There will be frequent Quizzes on the readings [5% of the grade]. All of these will test for both information and understanding of issues. The other 15% of the final grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussion, completion of assigned readings in advance of the date assigned, or other requirements.

Evaluation Scale

A = 100-95; A- = 95-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 80-82; C+ = 79-77;

C = 76-73; C- = 72-70 ; D+ = 69-67; D = 66-63; D- = 62-60.

Miscellaneous

Disability Accommodation Policy

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahmman Center in Kenna Hall, Rome 101, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.