

TESP 46: Faith, Justice, and Poverty — Winter, 2008

37444: MWF 9:15-10:20 AM, Bannan 331

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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.

Required Books

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.

Aims of the Course:

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.

Structure, Evaluation, and Grading

The class will be taught by lecture and discussion. There will be a midterm examination [20% of grade], a final, comprehensive Paper [35% of the grade], and two written assignments [30% of grade]. There will be frequent Quizzes on the readings [20% of the grade]. All of these will test for both information and understanding of issues. The other 20% 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.

Course Requirements

Arrupe Placement

A carefully selected Arrupe Center placement at 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. Frequently they will be based on the study guides to 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.

Participation

Participation in the class discussions is important part of the course. Class will frequently begin with a question that invites reflection. There will be occasional group discussions and group work.

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 Friday, February 1, covering the material studied up to that point. The **Final** will be a paper making a synthesis on the material covered throughout the Quarter. Examinations may be made up only in cases of extreme and exceptional circumstances.

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.

Academic Integrity

All written work must be uniquely and individually the student's own work. While in-class discussion and outside of class discussion is certainly desirable and encouraged, the material that a student hands in must reflect the student's own labor and ought to be clearly and decisively distinguishable from the work of all other students in the class. Failure to abide by the spirit and the letter of this policy may result in a zero for that assignment or examination.

In order to discourage plagiarism, that is passing off the ideas or words of another as if they were one's own, students are required to turn in both a hard copy of their papers and to also submit one electronically to <http://Turnitin.com>. This is a service which checks your paper against the web and a database of other student papers. It provides professors with a plagiarism report.

You will need to visit the website and create a user profile. Once that is done, you register for the course using ID number 2129804. The course password is: **solidarity**

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.

Disability Accommodation Policy

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahnmann Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. **Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.**

Schedule and Reading Assignments [Tentative]

Week 1

M Jan. 7 Introduction: Method and Meaning; Context and Vision; Solidarity and Learning.

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

W Jan. 9 "Poverty means death", Gutiérrez, p. 9.
Reading: Gutiérrez, Introduction, Ch. 1-3, pp. vii-53.

F Jan. 11 Discussion

Week 2

M Jan. 14 "Acting ourselves into ways of thinking."

Reading: Gutiérrez, Part 2, Ch. 4-10, Conclusion, pp. 54-89.

W Jan. 16 "Free to Love"
Reading: Gutiérrez, Part 3, Ch. 6-10, Conclusion, pp. 91-137.

F Jan. 18 **TBA**

Week 3

M Jan. 21 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day - Holiday

W Jan. 23 In the light of scripture
Reading: The Book of Job Chapters 1-31, 38-42.
Exodus 1.1 - 15:27
Genesis 1.1 - 4:26
Deuteronomy 5:1 - 5:22 (the decalogue), 6:1 - 6:25 (the covenant code), 26:5 - 26:10 (the touchstone: "Remember, oh Israel...").
Isaiah Chapters 1 - 39. (Look especially at 1:1-17 [What is the nature of the sinfulness of the people?], 3:14-15, 5:8 [What are the actual social conditions of the poor?], 10:2 [What is Justice?], 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.

F Jan. 25 The State of Things, Part 1
Reading: Thompson, Ch. 1-2, pp. 1-61.

Week 4

- M Jan. 28 The State of Things, Part 2
Reading: Thompson, Ch. 3-5, pp. 62-148.
- W Jan. 30 The State of Things, Part 3
Reading: Thompson, Ch. 6-8, pp. 148-204.
- F Feb. 1 **Mid-Term Exam**

Week 5

- M Feb. 4 Christ and Culture: Various Christian Approaches to Social Ethics
Reading: Niebuhr, Ch. 1-2, pp. xi-lv, 1-82.
- W Feb. 6 Christ and Culture: Several Civil Religions
Reading: Niebuhr, Ch. 3-4, pp. 62-148.
- F Feb. 8 Discussion

Week 6

- M Feb. 11 Christ and Culture: Several Civil Religions
Reading: Niebuhr, Ch. 5-7, pp. 149-256.

First Paper Due

- W Feb. 13 Radical Catholic Spirituality of Service
Reading: Day, pp. xi - 48.
- F Feb. 15 Discussion

Week 7

- M Feb. 18 Presidents' Day - Holiday
- W Feb. 20 Works of Mercy
Reading: Day, pp. 51 - 119.
- F Feb. 22 Works of Mercy
Reading: Day, pp. 123-203.

Week 8

- M Feb. 25 Catholic Social Doctrine
Reading: Day, pp. 207-257.
- W Feb. 27 Politics and Principles
Reading: Day, pp. 261-363.
- F Feb. 29 Discussion

Week 9

- M Mar. 3 Norms, Axioms and Action
Reading: Thompson, pp., 175-220.

Second Paper Due

- W Mar. 5 Presentations
- F Mar. 7 Presentations

Week 10

- M Mar. 10 Presentations
- W Mar. 12 Presentations
- F Mar. 14 Discussion & Conclusion

Final Exam Schedule: Monday, Mar 17, 2008, 1:30 - 4:30 PM.