

**TESP 163: CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS****FALL QUARTER 2015****SECTION: 27674****INSTRUCTOR: Dr. David DeCosse****CONTACT INFO: 408-554-5715, [ddecosse@scu.edu](mailto:ddecosse@scu.edu)****OFFICE: Arts and Sciences, Room 172 (in the Ethics Center) AND Kenna 307****OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 11-12 p.m. and by appointment**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL BE IN KENNA 307, NOT IN MY ETHICS CENTER OFFICE.**

**CLASS DAY/TIME: TTh 3:50 – 5:30 p.m.****CLASSROOM: Kenna 111**

**Academic Integrity Pledge: "I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code."**

- This pledge is a formal part of the academic integrity policy of Santa Clara University. We will discuss the pledge at the start of the quarter; take an occasion to write it out; and discuss it during the quarter in light of assignments.
- All standards of academic integrity at Santa Clara University will be strictly adhered to. Failure to observe these standards will result in failure of the class.

**This class fulfills the Core Curriculum requirement for a Religion, Theology, and Culture 3 class AND for Civic Engagement. Students must pick one or the other of these Core Requirements – i.e., either RTC 3 OR Civic Engagement. The class does NOT fulfill the Core requirement in Ethics.**

**Learning Objectives for Religion, Theology, and Culture 3:**

- Identify diverse perspectives and evaluate ethical positions on contemporary questions.
- Evaluate and apply insights from the study of religion to open-ended questions facing contemporary society.

**Learning Objectives for Civic Engagement:**

- Students will be able to critically evaluate, and expressed reasoned opinions about, the role of public organizations (governmental, non-governmental, multilateral, or international) in civic life through both oral and written work.
- Students will analyze and evaluate civic issues by engaging in active and collaborative learning with peers and others through working cooperatively with other students in class.

**Also, the course is associated with the following Pathways: Democracy, Applied Ethics, and Politics and Religion**

**Required Texts:**

Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being by M. Shawn Copeland (Fortress 2010)

Readings posted to the CANVAS site for the class OR available online  
Bible (it is assumed that students have a Bible)

**Requirements:**

Class Participation	20% of final grade (for standards of class participation, see reading/box from Gastil from first class)
Midterm Take-Home Exam	20% of final grade
Midterm Project	10% of final grade
Final Take-Home Exam	50% of final grade

**Only two unexcused absences from class permitted without resulting in reduction in grade.**

**Students may not use a laptop in class without the permission of the instructor.**

**Disability Accommodation Policy:** To request accommodation for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Drahmman Center in Benson, Room 214 at 554-4111; TTY 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodation.

**Classes:****September 22: Introduction**

- Rules for Conversation in Class and Political Communication in General (from Gastil, Political Communication and Deliberation (2008)) (CANVAS)
- Glossary of Key Questions and Concepts Related to Christianity and Politics (CANVAS)
- Selection from Evangelii Gaudium (“The Joy of the Gospel”) by Pope Francis, paragraphs 178-179; available at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html#I.%E2%80%82Communal\\_and\\_societal\\_repercussions\\_of\\_the\\_kerygma](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html#I.%E2%80%82Communal_and_societal_repercussions_of_the_kerygma)
- Eulogy by President Obama at Funeral of South Carolina Representative Clementa Pinckney, June 26, 2015; available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RK7tYOVD0Hs> (VIEW IN CLASS)

**September 24: Pope Francis’ Speech to the United States Congress**

- Gaudium et spes, “The Life of the Political Community,” paragraphs 73-76 ONLY; available at [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)
- Selection on “Human Dignity” from Karl Rahner, S.J., “The Dignity and Freedom of Man,” Theological Investigations II (CANVAS)
- Selection on “Common Good” from David Hollenbach, S.J., in The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought (CANVAS)

- “Pope Francis is Not a Progressive – He’s a Priest,” by Emma Green, The Atlantic, September 22, 2015; available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/pope-francis-is-not-a-progressive-or-a-liberalhes-a-priest/406519/>

**September 29: Liberation, Kingship, Exile: Politics and the Hebrew Scriptures**

- The Book of Exodus, Chapters 13-16, with commentary (CANVAS)
- 1 Samuel, Chapters 8-10, with commentary (CANVAS)
- The Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 29, with commentary (CANVAS)
- Selection from The Desire of the Nations by Oliver O’Donovan, pp. 21-29 (CANVAS)

**October 1 What Belongs to Caesar? What Belongs to God?**

- The Gospel of Mark (in your Bibles; read the entire gospel)
- Focus on Gospel of Mark 12:13-17 (“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s...”)
- “Taxes to Caesar” (pp 343 – 348) from The Gospel of Mark (Sacra Pagina Commentary Series) by Donahue and Harrington (CANVAS)
- Selection from Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark’s Story of Jesus by Ched Meyers, pp. 306-314 (CANVAS)
- IN-CLASS VIEWING: Selection from “The Passion of Christ”

**October 6: Augustine: Why Are There Two Cities? And What Are They?**

- From Introduction to Augustine and from Augustine’s The City of God, pp. 104-5 AND 109-12 AND 142-152 in From Irenaeus to Grotius, eds O’Donovan and ODonovan (CANVAS)
- “Objects of Love” (pp. 1-24) from Common Objects of Love: Moral Reflection and the Shaping of Community by Oliver O’Donovan (CANVAS)

**\*\*\*EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: SCU LECTURE BY POLITICAL COLUMNIST GEORGE WILL, 7:30 P.M., OCTOBER 8, MAYER THEATER\*\*\***

Background reading: “On Pope Francis’ Fact-Free Flamboyance and Medieval World View,” by George Will, San Jose Mercury News, September 20, 2015; available at [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_28831208/george-f-will:-on-pope-francis-factfree-flamboyance-and-medieval-world-view](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_28831208/george-f-will:-on-pope-francis-factfree-flamboyance-and-medieval-world-view)

**October 8: Augustine II: What is a “People”?**

- From Augustine’s The City of God, pp. 152-163 in From Irenaeus to Grotius (CANVAS)
- “What Does It Mean to be an American?” by Damien Cave, The New York Times, June 20, 2014; available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/20/us/what-does-it-mean-to-be-american.html>

**October 13: Human Dignity, the State, and Religious Freedom**

- Declaration on Religious Freedom from the Second Vatican Council (PLEASE FOCUS ONLY ON SECTIONS 1-10, AS THEY ARE NUMBERED IN THE DOCUMENT); available at [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat\\_ii\\_decl\\_19651207\\_dignitatis-humanae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat_ii_decl_19651207_dignitatis-humanae_en.html)
- Selection from A Church That Can and Cannot Change by John T. Noonan, Jr., pp. 145-158 (CANVAS)
- “Kim Davis Emerges as Lightning Rod for Religious Freedom Among Some Republicans,” by David Jackson, Religion News Service, September 5, 2015; available at <http://www.religionnews.com/2015/09/05/kim-davis-emerges-as-lightning-rod-for-religious-freedom-among-some-republicans/>

**October 15: The Common Good, Christianity, and Property**

- “Recovering the Commonweal” (pp. 65-86) from The Common Good and Christian Ethics by David Hollenbach, S.J. (CANVAS)
- Ayn Rand on the Common Good from the Ayn Rand Lexicon; available at [http://aynrandlexicon.com/lexicon/common\\_good.html](http://aynrandlexicon.com/lexicon/common_good.html)
- Elizabeth Warren comments on owning a business: [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=elizabeth+warren+speech&q=elizabeth+warren+&gs\\_l=youtube.1.0.0i10.4125.7031.0.13672.17.9.0.8.8.0.109.530.8j1.9.0...0.0...1ac.1.DwLcCZH7DQQXXXX](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=elizabeth+warren+speech&q=elizabeth+warren+&gs_l=youtube.1.0.0i10.4125.7031.0.13672.17.9.0.8.8.0.109.530.8j1.9.0...0.0...1ac.1.DwLcCZH7DQQXXXX)
- George Will, “Elizabeth Warren and Liberalism: Twisting the Social Contract,” Washington Post, October 5, 2011; at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/elizabeth-warren-and-liberalism-twisting-the-social-contract/2011/10/04/gIQAXi5VOL\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/elizabeth-warren-and-liberalism-twisting-the-social-contract/2011/10/04/gIQAXi5VOL_story.html)

**October 20: How Should Christians Argue About Politics in the Public Square?**

- “The Public Church and Public Theology,” from The Fullness of Faith: The Public Significance of Theology by Michael and Kenneth Himes, pp. 1-25 (CANVAS)
- “America’s Changing Religious Landscape,” Pew Research Center / Religion and Public Life, May 12, 2015; available at <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

\*\*\*TAKE-HOME MIDTERMS DUE \*\*\*

**October 22: *Mujerista* Theology, Justice, and the Challenge of Immigration**

- “Mujerista Theology: A Challenge to Traditional Christian Theology,” from Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the Twenty-First Century by Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, pp. 59-85 (CANVAS)
- Selection on justice from “The Personal is Political: Toward a Vision of Justice in Latina Theology,” by Nichole Flores, in Feminist Catholic

Theological Ethics: Conversations in the World Church (2014): 232-242

- “Judge Orders Prompt Release of Immigrant Children From Detention,” by Cindy Carcamo, Los Angeles Times, August 22, 2015; available at <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-family-detention-children-20150821-story.html>

**October 27: Christian Realism, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Economic Inequality in the U.S.**

- “The Kingdom of God and the Struggle for Justice,” from The Nature and Destiny of Man, Volume II, by Reinhold Niebuhr, pp. 244-284 (Focus on pp. 244-269) (CANVAS)
- Selection from Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty (CANVAS)

**October 29: Radical Christianity, Pacifism, and the War in Syria**

- “Man of War: Why C.S.Lewis Was Not a Pacifist,” by Stanley Hauerwas, Religion and Ethics, August 24, 2012; available at <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2012/08/24/3575360.htm>
- “What Makes America So Prone to Intervention: A Conversation with Stanley Hauerwas,” The Atlantic, September 3, 2013; available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/09/what-makes-america-so-prone-to-intervention/279393/>

**November 3: Laudato Si, Global Christianity, and the Politics of Climate Change**

- **ATTENDANCE REQUIRED: LECTURE BY CARDINAL PETER TURKSON, PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, RECITAL HALL, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**
- Laudato Si, paragraphs 1-62; available at
- [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)
- “Climate Change: Basic Information,” Environmental Protection Agency; available at <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/basics/>
- “False Equivalency, Climate Skepticism, and Denial,” by Brian G. Henning, in Riders in the Storm: Ethics in an Age of Climate Change, pp. 64-68 (CANVAS)

\*\*\*ATTENDANCE REQUIRED AT **ONE OR MORE** KEYNOTE SESSIONS AT A DAYLONG CONFERENCE AT SCU **ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**, CALLED “OUR FUTURE ON A SHARED PLANET: SILICON VALLEY IN CONVERSATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEACHINGS OF LAUDATO SI.” MORE INFO TO COME

**November 5: Laudato Si, Global Christianity, and the Politics of Climate Change II**

- Laudato Si, paragraphs 62-100
- GROUP REPORT: Climate Change, Politics, and the Church in the Philippines

**November 10: Laudato Si, Global Christianity, and the Politics of Climate Change III**

- Laudato Si, paragraphs 101-62
- GROUP REPORT: Climate Change, Politics, and the Church in Southern Africa

**November 12: Laudato Si, Global Christianity, and the Politics of Climate Change IV**

- Laudato Si, paragraphs 163-246
- GROUP REPORT: Climate Change, Politics, and the Church in Brazil

**November 17: \*\*\*POVERTY SIMULATION: LOCATELLI CENTER\*\*\***

- **ATTENDANCE REQUIRED; CLASS WILL MEET AT THE LOCATELLI CENTER INSTEAD OF IN KENNA 111**
- “Whether It is Lawful for a Man to Possess a Thing as His Own,” Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica II-II, Question 66, Article 2

**\*\*\*FINAL MIDTERM GROUP REPORTS DUE\*\*\***

**November 19: What’s the Point of Christian Political Theology: The Challenge of Race in American Politics**

- Selection from Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being by M. Shawn Copeland, pp. ix-53
- “Conscience Formation and the Challenge of Unconscious Racial Bias,” by Bryan Massingale, in Conscience and Catholicism: Rights, Responsibilities, and Institutional Responses, pp. 53-68 (CANVAS)

**December 1: What’s the Point of Christian Political Theology: The Challenge of Race in American Politics – II**

- Selection from Enfleshing Freedom, pp. 55-105
- “Confessions of a White Catholic Racist Theologian,” by Jon Nilson in Interrupting White Privilege, pp. 15-39 (CANVAS)

**December 3: What’s the Point of Christian Political Theology: The Challenge of Race in American Politics – III**

- Enfleshing Freedom, pp. 107-30

**\*\*\*TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE DURING EXAM WEEK\*\*\***