

**TESP 163: CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS****SPRING QUARTER 2017****SECTION: 51809****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: Thursday, 10:30 -11:30 a.m. and by appointment****PLEASE NOTE THAT REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL BE IN KENNA 307, NOT IN MY ETHICS CENTER OFFICE.****CLASS DAY/TIME: MW 3:30 – 5:15 p.m.****CLASSROOM: Kenna 109****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 may 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 express 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 fulfills the requirements of the following Pathways: Democracy, Applied Ethics, and Politics and Religion****Applied Ethics Pathway and Related Materials:****EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PATHWAYS**

You can find information about Pathways on the Core Curriculum website <http://scu.edu/core> including specific Pathways, all courses associated with them, and the Reflection Essay prompt and rubric used to

evaluate the final essay you will submit. <http://www.scu.edu/provost/ugst/core/pathways/resources/>

### **SAVE YOUR WORK FROM THIS CLASS**

If you declare this Pathway, you may use a representative piece of work from this course as one of the Pathway materials you will upload via eCampus during your junior or senior year. Therefore, we recommend that you keep electronic copies of your work using Dropbox or Google Docs, in addition to saving copies on your own computer or flash drives. This may ensure you will have a range of choices for retrieving your saved files when you analyze and assemble your Pathway materials in preparation to write the Pathway reflection essay.

**Standards of Evaluation:** Class discussion is guided by two ethical norms: freedom and respect. Freedom is the primary norm: no one should be hindered from saying what she or he thinks. At the same time, every effort should be made to say, especially difficult things, with the greatest respect for those in the class and outside the classroom. Student class participation will be evaluated on the basis of the willingness to speak up; the quality of reasoning in what is said; the ability to express a perspective with which one disagrees; and the respect with which one speaks and listens to one's peers in this class. Student exams and papers will be evaluated on the basis of accurate description of key points in the reading material; the cogency of applying reading material to practical situations; a willingness to take clear positions (even if the clear position is one affirming complexity); and the quality of writing (including grammar and spelling).

**Disability Accommodation Policy:** If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities), as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please initiate a conversation with me about your accommodations during my office hours within the first two weeks of class. Students who are pregnant and parenting may also be eligible for accommodations. Accommodations will only be provided after I have verification of your accommodations as approved by Disabilities Resources, and with sufficient lead time for me to arrange testing or other accommodations. For more information you may contact Disabilities Resources at [408-554-4109](tel:408-554-4109) OR TTY 554-5445.

**Sexual Harassment and Discrimination (Title IX):** Santa Clara University upholds a zero tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please go to [www.scu.edu/studentlife/about/osl.cfm](http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/about/osl.cfm) and click on the link for the University's [Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie, at [408-554-3043](tel:408-554-3043) or by email at [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu). Reports may be submitted online through [www.scu.edu/osl/report](http://www.scu.edu/osl/report) or anonymously through Ethicspoint: [www.ethicspoint.com](http://www.ethicspoint.com) or <http://stage-www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethics-point/>

## Required Texts:

Christianity and the Political Order: Conflict, Cooptation, and Cooperation by Kenneth R. Himes (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2013)

Other readings will be available online or posted to the CANVAS or handed out in class

Bible (it will be helpful for students to have or have access to a Bible)

## Requirements:

Class Participation from Gastil from first class)	20% of final grade (for standards of class participation, see reading/box)
Discussion Leader	10% of final grade
Midterm Take-Home Exam	30% of final grade
Final Take-Home Exam	40% of final grade

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

**Disability Accommodation Policy:** To request accommodation for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Drahnann 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:

### April 3: Introduction

- Inaugural Speech, President Donald Trump, January 20, 2017; available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44oLjMk\\_moM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44oLjMk_moM)
- Text: "Inaugural Address: Trump's Full Speech," CNN, January 21, 2017; available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/20/politics/trump-inaugural-address/>
- "The Forces Driving Middle-Aged White People's 'Death of Despair,'" NPR, March 23, 2017; available at <https://goo.gl/1XIFMi>
- "How the Faithful Voted: A Preliminary Analysis," Pew Research Center, November 9, 2016; available at <https://goo.gl/j4rah6>
- God's action in the world: ONLY Paragraph #20, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church; available at <https://goo.gl/qZVguG>

### April 5: Christian Politics and Human Dignity

- "Pope Francis Addresses Joint Session of Congress," September 24, 2015; available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBM7DleMsP0>
- "Transcript: Pope Francis's Speech to Congress," Washington Post, September 24, 2015; available at <https://goo.gl/XcclXR>
- "'God is Not Against Building Walls!': The Sermon Trump heard from Robert Jeffress before his inauguration," by Sarah Pulliam Bailey, The Washington Post, January 20, 2017; available at <https://goo.gl/VmH4uH>
- "Is the Pope the Anti-Trump?" Austin Ivereigh, The New York Times, March 5, 2017, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/04/opinion/sunday/is-the-pope-the-anti-trump.html?emc=eta1>
- Compendium, ONLY #s 132-33 AND 144-45 on human dignity

#### **April 10: Nationalism, Populism, and the Christian Approach to Politics**

- “This is How Steve Bannon Sees the World,” by J. Lester Feder, Buzzfeed, November 16, 2016; available at [https://www.buzzfeed.com/lesterfeder/this-is-how-steve-bannon-sees-the-entire-world?utm\\_term=.qbo7d6J3L#.hjQXy9Wln](https://www.buzzfeed.com/lesterfeder/this-is-how-steve-bannon-sees-the-entire-world?utm_term=.qbo7d6J3L#.hjQXy9Wln)
- “Ringside with Steve Bannon at Trump Tower as the President-Elect’s Strategist Plots ‘An Entirely New Political Movement,’” by Michael Wolff, The Hollywood Reporter, November 18, 2016; available at <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/steve-bannon-trump-tower-interview-trumps-strategist-plots-new-political-movement-948747>
- “America is a Christian Nation,” by Dr. Robert Jeffress, Pathway to Victory; available at <https://ptv.org/america-is-a-christian-nation/>
- “What is the Catholic Response to the Rise of Nationalism,” by Robert W. McElroy, America, January 24, 2017; available at <http://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2017/01/24/what-catholic-response-rise-nationalism>
- Compendium, ONLY #384 on the purpose of the political community

#### **April 12: Identity, Politics, and Christian Love**

- Selections from Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America, by Michael Eric Dyson (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2017): 95-123 (CANVAS)
- “The End of Identity Liberalism,” by Mark Lilla, The New York Times, November 18, 2016; available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/20/opinion/sunday/the-end-of-identity-liberalism.html>
- “The Beloved Community,” The King Center, available at <http://www.thekingcenter.org/king-philosophy#sub4>

#### **April 17 Jesus Christ and Scripture I**

- Himes, Christianity and the Political Order, 37-58 (read all but focus on pp. 44-48)
- “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)
- Compendium, ONLY #379 on Jesus and political authority

#### **April 19: Jesus Christ and Scripture II**

- The Gospel of Mark (READ WHOLE GOSPEL)
- Selection on the political meaning of Jesus from A Theology of Liberation by Gustavo Gutierrez (CANVAS)
- Selection on the political meaning of Jesus from A Life of Jesus by Shusaku Endo (CANVAS)
- Compendium, ONLY #28 on the meaning of Jesus Christ

**April 24: Christianity, the Common Good, and Solidarity**

- “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: <https://goo.gl/OQ7Fkx>
- 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)
- Compendium, ONLY #s 194-95 on solidarity

**April 26: Poverty Simulation, Divine Creation, and Property**

- FOR CLASS TODAY PLEASE GO TO LOCATELLI CENTER
- Compendium, ONLY #s 171-77 on the universal destination of the world’s goods and property

**May 1 St. Augustine and the Meaning of a “People”**

- Himes, 61-64 AND 68-81
- From Augustine’s The City of God, pp. 161-163 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>

**May 3: St. Augustine and the Meaning of a “People” II**

- “Objects of Love” (pp. 1-24) from Common Objects of Love: Moral Reflection and the Shaping of Community by Oliver O’Donovan (CANVAS)
- “AP-NORC Poll: Divided Americans Fret Country Is Losing Identity,” by Matt Sedensky, Associated Press, March 5, 2017; available at [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_AP\\_POLL\\_AMERICAN\\_IDENTITY?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_AP_POLL_AMERICAN_IDENTITY?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

**\*\*\*TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE ON MONDAY, MAY 8, AT 10 A.M. AT THE ETHICS CENTER\*\*\***

**May 8: St. Thomas Aquinas, Justice, and Deportations**

- Himes, “The Medieval Era,” 82-93 and 101-104
- “Whether Human Law Binds a Man in Conscience,” Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica I-II, Question 96, Article 4; available at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/2096.htm#article4>
- “Executive Order 13768 of January 25, 2017: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States,” available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-30/pdf/2017-02102.pdf>
- Compendium, ONLY #201-203 on justice

**May 10: Christianity, Justice, and Deportation II**

- “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 (CANVAS)
- “J. Christian Adams: Trump Reforms Will Remove Any Arrested Illegal Here Less Than Two Years,” by John Hayward, Breitbart, February 22, 2017; available at <http://www.breitbart.com/radio/2017/02/22/j-christian-adams-trump-reforms-remove-arrested-illegal-less-2-years/>
- Selections from “Illegal Immigration: Seeking a Christian Perspective,” by Mark D. Roberts, Patheos, 2010; available at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/illegal-immigration-seeking-a-christian-perspective/>

**May 15: Martin Luther King, Jr., the Natural Law, and Civil Disobedience**

- Himes, “The Age of Reform,” 116-19; 135-40; 144-50.
- “Letter From Birmingham Jail,” Martin Luther King, Jr., April 16, 1963; available at [https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Letter\\_Birmingham.html](https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)
- MLK, Jr. and opposition to gay marriage: see <http://www.bethepeopletv.com/martin-luther-king-jr-s-letter-from-birmingham-jail-explains-the-difference-between-just-and-unjust-laws/>
- MLK, Jr. and opposition to voter suppression: see <https://twitter.com/JohnnyMcNulty/status/821013125759635456/photo/1>
- Compendium, ONLY #s 393-395 on the nature of political authority

**May 17: Sin, Men, Women, and Politics**

- “Man as Sinner,” by Reinhold Niebuhr from The Nature and Destiny of Man, Volume I (New York: Scribner’s, 1964): 178-203 (CANVAS)
- “The Human Situation: A Feminine View,” by Valerie Saving in WomanSpirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion (SF: HarperCollins, 1992); available at <https://rel.as.ua.edu/pdf/rel101saiving.pdf>
- Compendium, ONLY #116 on sin

**May 22: Christianity and the Nature and Purpose of the State**

- Himes, 195-216
- “Individual Mandate Goes Against Basic Freedom and Liberty,” by Hans Von Spakovsky, US News and World Report, March 25, 2012; available at <https://goo.gl/xT5bLo>
- Compendium, ONLY #s 184-188 on subsidiarity

**May 24: Christianity and Democracy**

- Himes, 216-229
- “Americans Are Losing Faith in Democracy – and in Each Other,” by Nathaniel Persily and Jon Cohen, The Washington Post, October 14, 2016; available at <http://wpo.st/NbQ62>
- “The U.S. is No Longer a ‘full democracy,’ a new study warns,” by Amanda Erickson, The Washington Post, January 26, 2017; available at <http://wpo.st/OHAV2>
- Compendium, ONLY #190-191 on participation and democracy

**May 31: Christianity and the Human Right to 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)
- “Fact Checking the Ground Zero Mosque Debate,” by Robert Farley, Politifact, August 20, 2010; available at <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2010/aug/20/fact-checking-ground-zero-mosque-debate/>
- “It’s Official: Ground Zero Mosque Defeated,” by Pamela Geller, Breitbart News, September 26, 2015; available at <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/09/26/its-official-ground-zero-mosque-defeated/>
- Nostre Aetate or the Declaration of the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions; available at [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decl\\_19651028\\_nostra-aetate\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html)

**June 5: Christianity and a Global Ethics of Human Rights**

- “Faiths, Cultures, and Global Ethics,” by David Hollenbach, S.J., in The Global Face of Public Faith: Politics, Human Rights, and Christian Ethics (Washington: Georgetown UP, 2003): 231-259 (CANVAS)
- Selections from “Vladimir Posner Interviews Alexander Dugin,” The Fourth Political Theory, April 21, 2014; available at <http://www.4pt.su/en/content/vladimir-posner-interviews-alexander-dugin>

**June 7: Summary: Why the Christian Church is Involved in Politics**

- Himes, 230-53
- Transcript of Speech by San Diego Catholic Bishop Robert McElroy to Community Organizers, San Diego Union Tribune, February 22, 2017; available at <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/religion/sd-mc-elroy-speech-20170221-story.html>

**\*\*\* TAKE HOME FINAL DUE DURING EXAM WEEK, DATE TBD \*\*\***