

COURSE SYLLABUS

15:545: Catholic Social Ethics
Dr. Kevin Schemenauer

Newman, 215
M/Th, 8:30-9:45am, Spring 2022

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3pm, or by appointment.

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Course Description: This course will study the social mission of the Church. Students will analyze the rich and balanced guidance of Catholic social teaching in conversation with cultural tendencies and norms. A central focus for the course will be Catholic social principles, including human dignity, religious liberty, the dignity of work, the universal destination of goods, globalization, and peace. **Prerequisite: Fundamental Moral Theology.**

Broader Degree Objectives: among the outcome objectives for the Master of Divinity degree, this course contributes in a particular way to the following objectives:

Intellectual Formation

1. Understands and communicates the biblical, historical, and doctrinal dimensions of Catholic belief and practice;
2. Communicates faithfully the social teaching of the Church for justice, peace and the integrity of human life.

Pastoral Formation

4. Integrates knowledge and practice attentive to the contemporary context.

More Specific Course Objectives: The broader degree objectives are embedded in specific objectives unique to the course. The successful student will:

Intellectual Formation 1: understand the theological foundation for social ethics, the social encyclical tradition, and recognizes that love of neighbor is essential to the Christian faith.

Intellectual Formation 2: communicate effectively the principles of Catholic social ethics as demonstrated in writing assignments and class conversation.

Pastoral Formation 4:

- recognize the implications of Catholic social ethics for pastoral ministry, especially in guiding individuals in their interactions within the family, the workplace, and the parish;
- compare and contrast the principles of Catholic social ethics with culturally prevalent notions, such as consumerism and national political discourse.

Course Requirements:

Participation: good class participation enhances the learning community. Students who participate well in class have thoughtfully read the assigned material and demonstrate openness to learning by asking relevant questions, listening carefully to the professor and other students, and seeking ways to apply content to personal life or in a way that recognizes the role intellectual formation plays in future ministry.

Reading Analyses: as part of the participation component, students will submit a reading analysis most every Thursday highlighting a point of engagement and three central claims from the readings for that week (Monday and Thursday). See below for more details.

Case Study Debates: during the semester, we will discuss four case studies. During the case study debates, three to four students will advocate for one side of a debate and another three students will advocate for the other side of the debate. Students will prepare their answers with their group before class discussion. Each student will sign-up to be a debater for one case study.

Class Absence: please let the professor know in advance if you need to miss class.

Writing Assignments: students can choose between a group of smaller assignments or one lengthier research paper.

Catechetical Applications and Book Review: students who choose this option will complete five bulletin inserts and one other assignment (e.g. podcast, homily, book review, case study) that is comparable to a five-page essay. For the bulletin inserts, students will write inserts for five different Catholic social principles chosen by the professor. See below for more guidelines.

OR

Research-Thesis Paper: The research paper would be completed in three stages. For further details, see below.

Exams: students will complete two comprehensive exams: a comprehensive midterm and a comprehensive final. For the final, students will have an option between a spoken final or a written final. For both the midterm and the final, a study guide will be provided on Blackbaud a week before the exam.

Student Evaluation:

Participation (25%)

Final (30%)

Midterm (20%)

Writing Assignments (25%)

Grading Scale:

A: 93-100

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79

C: 73-76

C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69

D: 63-66

D-: 60-62

Academically Dishonest Behavior

When students' course work is drawing from the insights of another's work, they must provide citation (author, title, bibliography information) for the relevant work and quotations when the work is repeated word for word. *This includes internet resources.* Students may not copy the work of other students. Academically dishonest behavior will result in a zero for the assignment or failure for the course depending on the severity of the action.

Note for Recording Lectures

Students must ask the faculty member for permission before recording class lectures with an audio and/or visual device.

Required Texts:

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2004.

J. Brian Benestad, *Church, State, and Society: An Introduction to Catholic Social Doctrine*. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2010.

William T. Cavanaugh. *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdsman, 2008.

Various other selections available on Blackbaud.

Required Church Documents:

Leo XIII. *Rerum novarum: On the Condition of Workers*. 1891.

Pius XI. *Quadragesimo anno: On Reconstruction of the Social Order*. 1931.

John Paul II. *Laborem exercens: On Human Work*. 1981.

John Paul II. *Centesimus annus: 100th Anniversary of Rerum Novarum*. 1991.

Paul VI. *Populorum progressio: On the Development of Nations*. 1967.

John Paul II. *Solicitudo rei socialis: 20th Anniversary of Populorum progressio*. 1987.

Benedict XVI. *Caritas in veritate: Charity in Truth*. 2009.

Francis. *Laudato si: On the Care of Our Common Home*. 2015.

Vatican II. *Gaudium et spes: The Church in the Modern World*. 1965.

Francis. *Evangelii gaudium: Proclaiming the Gospel to Today's World*. 2013.

Francis. *Amoris laetitia: On Love in the Family*. 2016.

Francis. *Fratelli tutti. On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. 2019.

I recommend finding a way to organize the Church documents. You could do this by printing the documents from <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/it.html> and organizing them in a binder or by buying O'Brien, David J. and Thomas A. Shannon, eds. *Catholic Social Thought: Encyclicals and Documents from Pope Leo XIII to Pope Francis*. 3d edition. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2016. This document offers small introductions and includes all of documents listed just above (with the exception of *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Fratelli tutti*).

Class Schedule (subject to change): days in which case studies will be discussed will be determined by the topics of interest identified in the opening class survey.

INTRODUCTION

Jan 31	Monday	1	Goals and Framework
Feb 3	Thursday	2	The Theological Foundation for Social Ethics - read <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i> (CSD), sections 20-86, <i>Caritas in veritate</i> , sections 53-55, and <i>Fratelli tutti</i> , sections 56-86.
Feb 7	Monday	3	<i>Rerum Novarum</i> and The Papal Encyclical Tradition - read Leo XIII, <i>Rerum novarum</i> and CSD, sections 87-104.
Feb 10	Thursday	4	Consumerism as Contemporary Context - read Cavanaugh, chapter 2, and Kenneth Himes's article, "Consumerism and Christian Ethics," <i>Theological Studies</i> 68 (2007): 132-53 [available on Blackbaud].
Feb 14	Monday	5	Dignity of the Human Person and the Common Good - read Benestad, chapter 2 and CSD, sections 160-70. + for those writing the research paper, hand in topic and bibliography.
Feb 17	Thursday	6	Justice and Civil Law - read Benestad, chapter 4 and Aquinas, II-II, Q. 58, articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, Q. 61, and Aquinas, I-II, Q. 96 [available on Blackbaud]. + hand in bulletin insert one on dignity of the human person and/or the common good.
Feb 21	Monday	7	Material Cooperation with Evil - read M. Cathleen Kaveny, "Appropriation of Evil: Cooperation's Mirror Image" [available on Blackbaud] and Question 39 from <i>The Way of the Lord Jesus</i> , vol. 3 [available on Blackbaud].

SUBSIDIARITY

Feb 24	Thursday	8	Subsidiarity and Solidarity - read CSD, sections 185-96; <i>Quadragesimo anno</i> , sections 77-90; <i>Caritas in veritate</i> , sections 57-60; and <i>Sollicitudo rei socialis</i> , sections 38-40.
Feb 28	Monday	9	Family as the Basic Social Unit - read CSD, chapter 5 and Benestad, 258-78. + hand in bulletin insert two on subsidiarity and/or solidarity.
Mar 3	Thursday		Family Challenges and Pastoral Practices - read <i>Amoris laetitia</i> , chapters 2 and 5-6.
Mar 7	Monday	10	Society, State, and Church - read CSD, chapter 8; <i>Quadragesimo anno</i> , sections 129-48; and <i>Fratelli tutti</i> , chapter 5.
Mar 10	Thursday	11	MIDTERM
Mar 14	Monday	12	Human Rights and Religious Liberty - read Vatican II Declaration on Religious Liberty [available on Blackbaud]; statement by USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty" [available on Blackbaud]; and Benestad, pages 54-64. + hand in bulletin insert three on society, state, and/or the Church.
Mar 17	Thursday	13	Capital Punishment - read USCCB, The Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death [available on Blackbaud] and <i>Fratelli tutti</i> , sections 263-70. -
Mar 21	Monday		<i>No Class: Solemnity of Saint Benedict</i>

WORK AND CARE FOR THE POOR

- Mar 24 Thursday 14 The Dignity of Work
read *Laborem Exercens*, sections 3-15 and 24-27.
- Mar 28 Monday 15 Just Wage, Working Conditions, and Labor Unions
- read *Laborem exercens*, sections 16-23;
Quadragesimo anno, sections 59-76 and 91-96;
CSD, sections 301-309; and Benestad, pages
330-36.
+ for those writing the research paper, hand in
question, background, and method.
- Mar 31 Thursday 16 Universal Destination of Goods and the Right to
Private Property
- read *Quadragesimo anno*, sections 44-58;
Aquinas, II-II, Q. 66, a. 2 and 7 [available on
Blackbaud]; and Cavanaugh, chapter 4.
+ hand in bulletin insert four on the dignity of
work.
- April 4 Monday 17 The Free Market and Socialism
- read *Quadragesimo anno*, sections 111-28;
Centesimus annus, sections 32-43; Cavanaugh,
chapter one; and CSD, sections 346-60.
- April 7 Thursday 18 Preferential Option for the Poor and Voluntary
Poverty
- read *Evangelii gaudium*, sections 186-216 and
chapters 5-7 from Thomas Dubay's *Happy are
You Poor* [available on Blackbaud].
+ submit book review
- April 9-18: Easter Break*
- April 21 Thursday 19 Care for the Poor and The Catholic Worker Movement
- read section from Julie Hanlon-Rubio's *Hope
for Common Ground* [available on Blackbaud];
Mark and Louise Zwick *Mercy Without Borders:
The Catholic Worker and Immigration*. New York
Paulist Press, 2010, pp. 27-45 [available on
Blackbaud]; and *Dorothy Day: Selected Writings*,

ed. Robert Ellsberg. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992, 91-100 [available on Blackbaud].

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

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| April 25 | Monday | 20 | The International Community <ul style="list-style-type: none">- read <i>Populorum progressio</i> and CSD, sections 310-22 and 361-76.+ hand in bulletin insert five on preferential option for the poor.+ for those writing the research paper, hand in final paper. |
| April 28 | Thursday | 21 | Immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none">- read USCCB's "Immigration and Catholic Social Teaching"; Cavanaugh's "Migrant, Tourist, Pilgrim, Monk" <i>Theological Studies</i> 69 (2008): 340-56 [available on Blackbaud]; and <i>Fratelli tutti</i>, chapter 4. |
| May 2 | Monday | 22 | Peace and Just War Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none">- read chapter from Hamas, <i>Counsels of Imperfection</i> [available on Blackbaud]; CSD, chapter 11; and <i>Fratellis tutti</i>, chapter 7. |
| May 5 | Thursday | 23 | Care for the Environment 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- read <i>Laudato Si</i>, sections 15-114 and 202-246. |
| May 9 | Monday | 24 | Care for the Environment 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- read Jame Schaefer. "Reverencing the Sacramental Universe." In <i>Theological Foundations for Environmental Ethics</i>. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2009. |
| May 12 | Thursday | 25 | FINAL |

