

CE 3230 CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS

Spring 2006

William O'Neill, S.J. JSTB

M/Th 11:10 am-12:30 pm.

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This course will consider the tradition of Roman Catholic Social Teaching and modern social ethics. Issues to be treated will include Christian interpretations of violence and non-violence, war and peace, global and domestic justice, human rights, bioethics, and ecological ethics. In assessing these issues, we will consider the interpretative perspectives of liberation theology and Christian feminism.

Requirements: An introduction to moral theology or Christian ethics presumed. Grades will be determined by participation midterm, oral examination, and *either* final open book examination or research paper (10-15 pages).

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. Love Your Enemies: Discipleship, Pacifism, and Just War Theory. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Himes, Kenneth, ed. Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations. Washington, D.C. Georgetown University, 2005.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. We Drink from Our Own Wells. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1984.

O'Brien, David, ed. Catholic Social Thought. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1992.

Reader containing selected texts will be available at Copy Central on 2483 Hearst Ave.

Recommended Texts in Roman Catholic Social Teaching:

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

Curran, Charles. Catholic Social Teaching 1891-Present: A Historical, Theological, and Ethical Analysis. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2002.

Donahue, John. "What Does the Lord Require" (revised ed). St. Louis, Institute of Jesuit Sources, 2000.

Mich, Marvin L. Krier. Catholic Social Teaching and Movements. Mystic, Connecticut: Twenty-Third Publications, 1998.

Recommended Texts for General Review of Moral Theology:

Gula, Richard M. Reason Informed by Faith: Foundations of Catholic Morality. Mahwah, New York: Paulist, 1989.

Mahoney, John. The Making of Moral Theology: A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.

Other articles in multiple copies will be placed on reserve at JSTB under course title.

Syllabus (minor adaptations may be made):

Jan. 30 Introduction

Nonviolence, War, and Peace in Christian Tradition

Feb. 2 Ethics in Scripture: Texts: Carrol Stuhmueller, "The Prophetic Combat for Peace"; John Donahue, "The Good News of Peace"; Robert Daly, "The New Testament: Pacifism and Non-Violence" (texts in Reader). Recommended: Walter Wink, "Jesus and the Nonviolent Struggle of Our Time" (text on reserve).

Feb. 6 Christian Assessments of Violence and Non-Violence: Texts: Cahill, Love Your Enemies, chaps. 1-3. Recommended: Ambrose, Augustine and Thomas (texts on reserve). Case study due (see below).

Feb. 9 Jus ad bellum: Texts: The Challenge of Peace in Catholic Social Thought, pp. 492-518. Cahill, Love Your Enemies, chaps. 4-6. Todd Whitmore, "The Reception of Catholic Approaches to Peace and War in the United States" in Modern Catholic Social Teaching, 493-521. Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 497ff.

Feb. 13 Jus in bello: The question of terrorism. Texts: Michael Walzer: "Noncombatant Immunity and Military Necessity" in Just and Unjust Wars (text in Reader); Cahill, Love Your Enemies, chaps. 7-9. Recommended: James Childress, "Just-War Criteria" in War in the Twentieth Century (text on reserve).

Feb. 16 Humanitarian Intervention: Texts: The Harvest of Justice Is Sown In Peace (U.S. Bishops' commemoration of The Challenge of

Peace); Kenneth Himes, "Intervention, Just War, and U.S. National Security" (texts in Reader).

- Feb. 23 Christian Feminist Interpretations: Texts: Cahill, Love Your Enemies, chaps. 10-11; Jean Bethke Elshtain, "Reflections on War and Political Discourse: Realism, Just War, and Feminism in a Nuclear Age" in War in the Twentieth Century; Selections from the writings of Dorothy Day (texts in Reader). Recommended: Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Feminism and Peace" in Women's Consciousness, Women's Conscience (text on reserve).
- Feb. 27 Civil Disobedience and Conscientious Objection: Texts: Gula, Reason Informed by Faith, chap. 17; Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (texts in Reader). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 393ff.
- March 2 Capital Punishment: Texts: "A Call to Discipleship: Statement of the California Catholic Conference on Capital Punishment"; John Paul II, selections from Evangelium Vitae; John Langan, "Capital Punishment" (texts in Reader). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 405.

Justice, Human Rights, and the Common Good

- March 6 Introduction: Justice in the World in Catholic Social Thought, pp. 287-302; Himes, "Justitia in mundo," in Modern Catholic Teaching, 333-62. Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 124ff.
- March 9 Ethics in Scripture: (Old Testament) Texts: Donahue, "The Bible and Catholic Social Teaching" in Modern Catholic Teaching, 9-24; StuhlmueLLer, "Option for the Poor: Old Testament Directive in Economic Justice (texts in Reader).
- March 13 Ethics in Scripture (New Testament) Texts: Donahue, "The Bible and Catholic Social Teaching" in Modern Catholic Teaching, 24-40; Donald Senior "Called to Be Disciples" in Economic Justice (texts in Reader). Recommended: Simon, "The Biblical Roots of Social Concern" in Christian Faith and Public Policy: No Grounds for Divorce (text on reserve).
- March 16 Justice and Human Rights: Texts: Economic Justice for All in Catholic Social Thought, Introduction, chaps. 1-2, pp. 572-608; Gaillardetz, "The Ecclesiological Foundations of Modern Catholic Social Teaching in Modern Catholic Teaching, 72-98. Joseph

Cardinal Bernardin, "A Consistent Ethic of Life: An American-Catholic Dialogue" (text in reader). Recommended: Pope, "Natural Law in Catholic Social Teaching" in Modern Catholic Teaching, 41-71. Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 152ff.

March 20 Justice and Human Rights: Texts: Economic Justice for All, chaps. 3-5, pp. 608-664; Curran, "The Reception of Catholic Social and Economic Teaching in the United States," in Modern Catholic Teaching, 469-92. Recommended: Hollenbach, "*Gaudium et spes*," in Modern Catholic Teaching, 266-91.

March 23 Liberty and the Common Good: Texts: Mahoney, "The Basis of Human Rights" in Moral Theology: Challenges for the Future; Murray, "E Pluribus Unum" (recommended) in We Hold These Truths (texts in Reader), "The Civilization of the Pluralist Society (Introduction)," "Civic Unity and Religious Integrity" (Recommended, texts on Reserve). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 107ff.

March 27-31 Spring Break

April 3-7 Midterm Examinations for all students (Oral); NB. no class meeting on April 3rd, 6th).

April 10 Religious Liberty: *Dignitatis humanae* (in Reader); Griffin, "*Dignitatis humanae*" in Modern Catholic Teaching, 244-65.

April 13 Work and Property: Texts: John Paul II, Laborem Exercens in Catholic Social Thought, pp. 352-92; Lamoureux, "*Laborem exercens*" in Modern Catholic Teaching, 389-414. Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 255ff. 176ff.

April 17 Ethics and Inculturation: Susan Moller Okin, "Inequalities Between the Sexes in Different Cultural Contexts"; Mercy Amba Oduyoye, "Feminist Theology in an African Perspective" (texts in Reader). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 523, 532.

April 20 Social Liberation, Equitable Development. Texts: Sollicitudo Rei Socialis in Catholic Social Thought, pp. 393-436; Curran, Himes, Shannon, "*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*" in Modern Catholic Teaching, 415-35. Gustavo Gutiérrez, We Drink from Our Own Wells, xiii-89.

- April 24 Poverty/Hunger: Texts: We Drink from Our Own Wells, 91-137. O'Neill, "Rights of Passage: The Ethics of Forced Migration" (distributed in class). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 100, 289-309, 505.
- April 27 Racism: Cornel West, Race Matters, introduction, chaps. 1-2 (texts in Reader). Jamie T. Phelps, "Inculturing Jesus," and Diana L. Hayes, "And When We Speak: To be Black, Catholic, and Womanist," in *Taking Down Our Harps*; M. Shawn Copeland, "Tradition and the Traditions of African American Catholicism," in *Theological Studies*, Vol. 61, no. 4 (Dec. 2000) (texts distributed in class). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 144, 431ff., 557.
- May 1 Gender Discrimination: Lisa Sowle Cahill, "Feminism and Christian Ethics" (text in reader). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 295.

Special Topics

- May 4 Bioethics: Thomas Shannon, "Ethical Issues in Genetics" (text in Reader).
- May 8 Medical Ethics: Abortion and Public Policy: Text: Lisa Sowle Cahill, "The Embryo and the Fetus: New Moral Contexts" (text in Reader). Recommended: Jon Fuller, "AIDS Prevention: A Challenge to the Catholic Moral Tradition," Gene Outka, "Social Justice and Equal Access to Health Care" in Bioethics; (texts on reserve).
- May 11 Ethics and Ecology: Texts: "Renewing the Earth" (U.S. Bishops); "Creation and an Environmental Ethic" in Michael and Kenneth Himes, Fullness of Faith (texts in Reader). Recommended Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 255ff.
- May 15 Review and Pastoral Application. Text: Coleman, "The Future of Catholic Social Thought," in Modern Catholic Social Teaching, 522-44.
- May 19 *Final Examinations and Papers Due*

