Catholic Social Doctrine

Course Syllabus, Fall, 2011
Blessed John XXIII National Seminary

Professor:  
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Office hours: Please contact me for an appointment.

Course Meeting Times:  
Mondays: 11:40am to 12:30pm
Wednesdays: 9:40am to 10:30am, 10:40am to 11:30am

Course Texts:


Other readings, including some recommended readings, will be provided by e-mail.

**All official documents of Catholic Social Teaching are accessible online off of the websites of the Vatican (www.vatican.va) and the US Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org). [#] indicates the paragraph numbers of the text. For easy access to these documents, you may visit the following websites:
- www2.bc.edu/~khimes/publications/mcst/


There is also a more recent “expanded edition” of this book published in 2010.
Course Description and Objectives

Often referred to as the Church’s “best kept secret,” Catholic social doctrine offers helpful principles to guide Catholic engagement in society. An adequate understanding of the Church’s social doctrine, as affirmed by *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, is particularly important for priests and those in ministerial and leadership positions in the Church.

“No less important is the commitment to use the Church's social doctrine in the formation of priests and candidates to the priesthood who, in the context of their preparation for ministry, must develop a thorough knowledge of the Church's teaching and her pastoral concerns in the social sphere as well as a keen interest in the social issues of their day.”

*Compendium, #533*

Grounded on the social encyclicals of popes, the statements of bishops’ conferences and the *Compendium*, this course will provide an overview of the social doctrine in four parts:

I. The Four Sources of Catholic Social Doctrine
II. Faithful Citizenship: The Church and Politics
III. The Three Pillars (Core Principles) of Catholic Social Doctrine
IV. Eight Key Themes of Catholic Social Doctrine

As the course studies the magisterial teaching, secondary texts and commentaries (*Thompson* and *MCST*) and will aid students by providing a context for the development of the social doctrine and by offering an overview of the major points of debate among Catholic scholars today. Course readings and assignments are aimed to help students understand the material and apply it in their future ministry.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able:

• to identify and explain the sources, core principles, and main themes of Catholic social teaching and doctrine;
• to articulate an understanding of the relationship between the Church and the world;
• to communicate to the wider Catholic community the relevancy of Catholic social doctrine to the contemporary (global) society.

“In the context of [priestly] formation, which undoubtedly requires and includes, as we have said, an adequate theological preparation for announcing the Word according to the needs of persons, places and times, and for the dialogue of the Church with the world, the students’ interest in and sensitivity about the Church’s social doctrine and pastoral care must be aroused. In this sense the Code (CIC, Can. 256) speaks about the need to educate future priests to “dialogue with persons”, and to sensitize them to the “social tasks” that await the Church.”

Pontifical Congregation for Catholic Education, *Guidelines For the Study and Teaching of the Church’s Social Doctrine in the Formation of Priests*. 1998. #72
Course Requirements and Grades

1. **Class participation:** Regular attendance and class participation is expected. Evidence of thoughtful preparation for and participation in course discussions will be taken into account when determining final grades.

2. **Response paper:** A 1-2 page reflection paper on the relations of the Church to the world. Students will be asked to make an argument as to why the Church should or should not engage the world. Due in class on October 5th. (15% of the final grade)

3. **Class presentation:** A 7-10 minute in-class presentation on the readings of that week as if you were addressing a parish group on the topic (e.g., social concerns committee, RCIA group, young adult group). A sign-up sheet will be provided in the first course sessions. (20% of the final grade)

4. **Exploratory paper:** A 5-7 page exploratory paper on a social ministry in your home diocese (or a ministry related to your religious congregation) Due in class on November 7th. (30% of the final grade)

5. **Final paper:** A final paper of 10-15 pages examining either:
   a. A specific theme of Catholic social doctrine; OR
   b. The work of a national or international Catholic organization concerned with Catholic social teaching. (35% of the final grade)
   
   The topic should be cleared with the professor prior to November 11th.

   **Due on December 16th by e-mail ahernke@bc.edu.**

*More details about the assignments will be given in class.

**Note on Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to abide by the Blessed John XXIII’s standards of academic integrity, including intellectual honesty and respect for the opinions of others. All sources and references in assignments should be properly cited and acknowledged as to avoid plagiarism. Please feel free to ask the professor if you have any questions. If you choose to use the Chicago style, a citation guide can be found here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).
Courses and Readings:

Monday, September 5th Labor Day: NO CLASS
Happy Feast Day of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Wednesday, September 7th
Introduction to the Course

Part I: The Four Sources of Catholic Social Doctrine

Monday, September 12th (Please bring a Bible to Class)

1. Revelation and Catholic Social Doctrine
   - Thompson, 5-15
   - Compendium, #20-33 (God’s plan of love)
   - MCST: “The Bible and Catholic Social Teaching: Will This Engagement Lead to Marriage?” John R. Donahue, SJ (9-40).

Wednesday, September 14th

2. Tradition and Catholic Social Doctrine
   - Compendium, Pages XXI-XXVI; #1- 19 (introduction), 87-104 (history)
   - Thompson, 15-35
   - MCST: “Ecclesiological Foundations of Modern Catholic Social Teaching,” Richard Gaillardetz (72-98).
   - Recommended:

Monday, September 19th

3. Natural Law and Catholic Social Doctrine
   - Compendium, #72-78 (faith and reason)
   - MCST: “Natural Law in Catholic Social Teaching,” Stephen J. Pope, (41-71)
   - Recommended:
     o Pope John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*,

Wednesday September 21st

4. Experience and Catholic Social Doctrine
   - Compendium, #7, 547-550, 568 (prudence and discernment)
   - Explore the Websites of the USCCB Poverty USA and CRS:
   - Recommended:
     o St. Thomas Aquinas on Prudence ST II-II 47.8.
Part II: Faithful Citizenship: The Church and Politics

Monday, September 26th
Religious Freedom

- Compendium, #421-427 (Religious Freedom)
- Vatican II, Decree on Religious Freedom (Dignitatis Humanae) (1965)
- Thompson, Chapter 2 (36-77)
- Recommended:
  - MCST: “Commentary on Dignitatis Humanae,” Leslie Griffin (244-265)
  - Second Vatican Council, Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate).

Wednesday, September 28th
Mission of the Church in the World

- Compendium, # 49-86, (Mission of the Church)
- Vatican II, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes) – (1965) (#1-11; 40-45; 73-93)
- MCST: “Commentary on Gaudium et Spes,” David Hollenbach, SJ (266-291),
  - (Especially 266-284)
- Recommended:
  - Scott Appleby, The Ambivalence of the Sacred, Chapter 1 (pages 42-48)
  - USCCB: Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,
  - CDF: Doctrinal Note on some questions regarding The Participation of Catholics in Political Life.

Part III: The Three Pillars (Core Principles) of Catholic Social Doctrine

Monday, October 3rd
1, Life and Dignity of the Human Person I

- Genesis 1:1-31
- Compendium, #34-43; 105-119; 144-148; (Human dignity)
- Pope John Paul II: Evangelium Vitae (1995)
  - (Especially #1-6, 10-12; 15-28; 38-41; 55-60; 64-65; 71)
- Recommended:
Wednesday, October 5th
1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person II
   • Compendium, #152-159 (human rights)
   • Pope John XXIII, Pacem et Terris (#1-45)
   • Second Vatican Council: Gaudium et Spes (#12-22)
   • Recommended:

Monday, October 10th to Wednesday, October 12th NO CLASS
Wishing you a restful and enriching retreat.

Monday, October 17th
2. Solidarity I (Social Nature of the Person)
   • Compendium, #149-151 (Social nature of person)
   • Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes (#23-32; 53-72)
   • Recommended:
     o Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, I-II, 72, 4.

Wednesday, October 19th
2. Solidarity II (Solidarity and Globalization)
   • Compendium, #192-196; 428-432 (Solidarity)
   • Pope John Paul II, Sollicitudo rei Socialis
     o (Especially #27-45)

Monday, October 24th
3. Option for the Poor (and Justice for the Poor)
   • Compendium, #449 and #176-184, (Universal Destination of Goods)
   • Thompson, 89-95 (top)
   • MCST: “Commentary on Justitia in Mundo” Kenneth R. Himes, OFM (333-362) (Justice and the Poor)
   • Recommended:
     o 1971 Synod of Bishops: Justitia in Mundo,
Part IV: Eight Key Themes of Catholic Social Doctrine

Wednesday, October 26th
1. Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers I
   • Thompson, 78-87
   • Compendium, #78-87; 267-269; 287-300; 301-309; (right and dignity of work)
   • Pope Leo XII, *Rerum Novarum* (1891)
   • Recommended:
     o MCST: “Commentary on Rerum Novarum,” Thomas A. Shannon (127-150)

Monday, October 31st
1. Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers II
   • Pope John Paul II: *Centesimus Annus* (1991)
   • Recommended:
     o MCST: “Commentary on Laborem Exercens,” Patricia A. Lamoureux (389-414)

Wednesday, November 2nd
2. The Proper Role of Government and Subsidiarity
   • Compendium, #185-188, #377-399 406-420 433-445
   • MCST “Commentary on Quadragesimo Anno” Christine Firer Hinze (151-174),
   • Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* (#53-67)
   • Recommended:
     o Pope Pius XI, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931)

(11/7 Exploratory paper due)

Monday, November 7th
3. The Common Good, Participation and Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities I
   • Compendium, #164-170
     o *(Especially #1-9, 122-265)*
   • Recommended:
     o MCST: “Commentary on Mater et Magistra” Marvin L. Mich (191-216)

Wednesday, November 9th
3. The Common Good, Participation and Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities II
   • Compendium, #189-191
   • Pope Paul VI, *Octogesima Adveniens* (1971)
   • Recommended:
     o MCST: Commentary on Octogesima Adveniens” Christine E. Gudorf (315-332)
Monday, November 14th

4. Peace and Disarmament I
- Recommended:
  - MCST: “Commentary on The Christmas messages of Pius XII,” John P. Langan, SJ (175-190)

Wednesday, November 16th

4. Peace and Disarmament II
- Compendium, #488-493 #494-515
- Thompson, 103-138
  - (Especially #1-4, 27-55, 68-125, 142-161, 221-273, 301-339)
- Recommended:
  - MCST: “The Reception of Catholic Approaches to Peace and War in the United States” Todd D. Whitmore,” (493-521)

Monday, November 21st

5. Central Role of the Family
- Compendium, #209-254
- Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, (#47-52)
- Recommended:

Wednesday, November 23rd – NO CLASS Happy Thanksgiving Safe Travels

Monday, November 28th

6. Migration
- +Drew Christiansen, SJ, “Movement, Asylum, Borders: Christian Perspectives,”
International Migration Review 30, no. 1 (Spring 1996): 1-6. [Will be provided]

- Recommended:

Wednesday, November 30th
7. Economic Justice and Integral Human Development I
- Compendium, #346-357 (economy) #361-374 (globalization)
- *Popolorum Progressio* (1967)
- Pope Benedict XVI: *Caritas in Veritate* (#10-33)
- Recommended:
  - “Commentary on Populorum Progressio,” Allan Figueroa Deck, SJ (292-314)

Monday, December 5th
7. Economic Justice and Integral Human Development II
- USCCB: *Economic Justice for All*
  - Especially #1-5, 28-95; 196-214; 251-260; 326-365
- Pope Benedict XVI: *Caritas in Veritate* (#34-42)

Wednesday, December 7th
8. Care for God’s Creation
- Thompson, 153-164
- Compendium, #451-455; 466-471; 481-487
- Pope Benedict XVI: *Caritas in Veritate* (#43-52)
- Recommended:

Monday, December 12th Last Day of Class
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Conclusion to the Course: The Consistent Ethic of Life and the Future of Catholic Social Doctrine
- Thompson, 139-152
- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin "The Consistent Ethic of Life" (Annual Helder Camara Lecture at the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Australia, on February 23, 1995.) Link is found at: [http://archives.archchicago.org/jcbselecteddocs.htm](http://archives.archchicago.org/jcbselecteddocs.htm)
- Recommended: