

## **CHRISTIAN SOCIAL TEACHING**

**September 2011 to April 2012**

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY, LONDON, ONTARIO**

**Wednesday 9:30 am to 11:20 am, Room 102**

**THEOLOGY 5231A [Antirequisite 231A and 211A]**

**ARTS: RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2234F [Antirequisite: the former Religious Studies 234F]**

**Professor: Fr. Frank O'Connor - [Phone 519-432-1824 ext. 235; email tfoconno@uwo.ca]**

[Office Hours by Appointment, so please contact the above number or address]

### **GOALS:**

1. To examine the meaning, content, methodologies and practical implications of Christian Social Teaching.
2. To focus our exploration principally on Catholic Social Teaching while also considering other faith based and secular approaches.
3. To give particular attention to the social, historical and methodological factors related to the development of these teachings.
4. To become aware of some of the social problems of our time and our milieu, to reflect on them in the light of the Church's teaching, to discuss these issues and to discover possible avenues of hope-filled, just action.

### **A. Knowledge**

1. To know the history of the Catholic Church's social justice tradition.
2. To study and have a familiarity with the principal magisterial documents of the Church's social teachings on the papal and universal level, on the regional and national level, and on the provincial and diocesan level.
3. To have a critical knowledge of the significant methodological changes and the underlying constants in the development of the social teaching of the Catholic church.
4. To have a knowledge of the theories and methods needed to develop strategies for relating Christian Social Teaching to the social mission of the Church at the parish and local level.
5. To be able to understand and articulate specific social issues and problems that influence society and the Church today on the local, national and international level in order to be able to formulate possible Christian Catholic responses.

### **B. Skills**

1. To be able to understand and interpret the historical development of the Church's Christian Social teaching in the broader ecclesial and secular historical context.
2. To be able read and analyze the Church's Social documents.
3. To be able to understand and apply appropriately Christian and theological social principles in concrete social analysis.
4. To develop the practical skill of working with others in applying different methods of social analysis: for example "See, Judge, Act".
5. To develop the oral and writing skills needed to articulate clearly and faithfully the Christian Social Teaching and its practical application to specific issues and problems.

### **C. Values and Attitudes**

1. To appreciate the importance of the Church's Social Teaching as an integral and constitutive part of the total doctrine of the Catholic Church.
2. To develop a sense of solidarity with, and love for, the poor by making a preferential option for the poor and oppressed rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ.
3. To appreciate the need for justice and peace in our global and local world, and the urgency for those in the Church to work for these values with all people of good will.
4. To value the connection between spirituality and social justice in forming agents for social change with the heart and mind of Jesus Christ.

### **Methodology:**

The course includes reading, lectures, discussion, student presentations and papers.

### **Assignments:**

1. Read and study the required texts.
2. Read and be conversant with the supplementary material indicated in the class lectures, for example articles, videos, interviews, etc.
3. Enter into class discussions.
4. Complete the required papers, seminars and tests.

### **Required Texts**

**The Social Attitudes of a Catholic: Revised Edition** by Michael T. Ryan. Solidarity Books, 2010: 1688 County Rd. 46, R.R. 1, Woodslee, ON N0R 1V0. (Will be available for purchase at the first class or can be ordered directly from the author).

**Catholic Social Thought: The Documentary Heritage. Expanded Edition** edited by David J. O'Brien and Thomas A. Shannon. Orbis Books: Maryknoll, New York, 2010. (Available at UWO Bookstore)

### **Recommended Optional Text**

**Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.** by Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops: Ottawa, Ontario, 2005. (Available at UWO Bookstore)

**[Note: These three texts are used for both the first and second semester of this course]**

## **CHRISTIAN SOCIAL TEACHING I - FIRST SEMESTER**

### **SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2011**

- Sept.14      Introduction  
                  Overview: Social Analysis; Social Documents, Christian Social Principles  
**READ:** *Compendium, "An Integral & Solidary Humanism", pp. 1-7.*  
                  *O'Brien & Shannon, pp. 1-8*
- Sept.21      Theology of Social Action & Social Analysis  
                  Discussion #1: Chapter 13 "Who are the Poor?" **The Social Attitudes of a Catholic**  
**READ:** *Solidarity, Ryan: "A Theology of Christian Social Action", pp.15-23*  
                  *Social Attitudes, Ryan: Chapter 13 "Who are the Poor?"*  
                  *Compendium, "The Human Person and Human Rights", pp. 49-70.*

Sept.28       **Seminar I:** Caritas in Veritate [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth] 2009  
*READ: O'Brien & Shannon, Caritas in Veritate [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth] 2009, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3. pp. 526-555*

**PAPER #1 - Due Sept. 28 at the end of class [15 Marks]**

Oct. 5         **Seminar II:** Caritas in Veritate [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth] 2009  
*READ: O'Brien & Shannon, Caritas in Veritate [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth] 2009, Chapters 4, 5, 6, and Conclusion. pp. 555-579*

**PAPER #2 - Due Oct. 5 at the end of class [15 Marks]**

Oct. 12       **Guest Lecturer - Fr. Michael Ryan:**  
Caritas in Veritate [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth] 2009

Oct. 19       Christian Social Principles: Human Person, Human Society, Human Rights, Law. Discussion #2 Chapter 4 What do we mean by “the dignity of the human person”? in **Social Attitudes**  
*READ: Solidarity, Ryan, “Basic Christian Social Principles”, pp. 24-32.  
Compendium, “The Principle of Subsidiarity, Participation, Solidarity, Social Values”, pp 81-92  
Social Attitudes, Ryan: Chapter 4 What do we mean by “the dignity of the human person”? pp. 13-15.*

Oct. 26       **Guest Lecturer - Richard Corneil:**  
Christian Social Principles - The Common Good  
*READ: Compendium, “Meaning, Common Good, Universal Destination of Goods”, pp. 71-80.  
Social Attitudes, Ryan, “What is the Common Good?”, pp. 19-21.*

Nov. 2         Rerum Novarum: [The Condition of Labour] Context, Themes, Text, Conclusions  
Overview of the Social Documents  
*READ: O'Brien & Shannon, “Rerum Novarum” [The Condition of Labour], pp. 12-40.*

Nov. 9         [First Hour] **TEST (40 Marks)**  
[Second Hour] Property: Meaning and Use  
*READ: Solidarity, Ryan, “Property: Meaning and Use”, pp.35-47.*

Nov.16       Quadragesimo Anno: [After Forty Years], Context, Themes, Texts, Conclusions  
Mater et Magistra [Christianity and Social Progress]: Context, Themes, Texts, Conclusions.  
Agriculture: Land Use, the Family Farm and Agribusiness - Some Issues  
*READ: O'Brien & Shannon, “Quadragesimo Anno: [After Forty Years], pp.41-82.  
O'Brien & Shannon, ‘Mater Et Magistra [Christianity and Social Progress], pp.85-134.*

Nov.23       Pacem in Terris [Peace on Earth], Context, Themes, Texts, Conclusions.  
*READ: O'Brien & Shannon, “Pacem in Terris” [Peace on Earth], pp. 135-170.  
Compendium, “The Promotion of Peace”, pp.213-226.*

Nov.30 Spirituality of Social Justice  
Discussion #3: Chapters 1, 2, 3 on Morality, spirituality and culture in **Social Attitudes**  
*READ: Social Attitudes, Ryan. "Morality, Spirituality, Culture", pp 1-12.*

Dec. 7 **Seminar III: Based on Final Paper Applying Catholic Social Teaching to a Specific Social Issue**

Group Presentation [See, Judge, Act]

**PAPER #3**

**Analysis of a Specific Social Issue applying the Christian Catholic Social Teachings and drawing on the texts from Social Documents studied this semester**

**Paper due at the end of the class: DECEMBER 7, 2011 [30 Marks]**

Summary and Conclusions

*NOTE: There will be no final exam in Christmas exam period.*

**PART I: FIRST SEMESTER - TOPIC OUTLINE**

[Theology 5231 A; Religious Studies 2234 F]

**1. Introduction:** Social Analysis and Christian Catholic Social Teachings

**2. Magisterial Documents**

- I. Rerum Novarum 1891 [The Condition of Labour]
- ii. Quadragesimo Anno 1931 [The Reconstruction of the Social Order]
- iii. Mater et Magistra 1961 [Christianity and Social Progress]
- iv. Pacem in Terris 1963 [Peace on Earth]
- v. Caritas in Veritate 2009 [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth]

**3. Theological Doctrine and Principles**

- I. **Theology of Social Action**
  - a. The Dignity of the Human Person
  - b. The Person as the Image of God
  - c. The Person as Social Being
  - d. The Reign of God and the Mission of the Church
- ii. **The Spirituality of Social Justice**
- iii. **Christian Social Principles**
  - a. Human Person
  - b. Human Society
  - c. Common Good
  - d. Human Rights and Law
- iv. **Property: Meaning and Use**

#### **4. Social Issues: Analysis and Practice: Seminar and Paper**

- i. Poverty in the World
- ii. Canadian Social Issues

**5. Group Study and Work:** Involvement in group work and study with other members of the class.

**6. Personal Research:** Written Assignments

### **PART II: SECOND SEMESTER - TOPIC OUTLINE**

[Theology 5232 B; Religious Studies 2235 G]

#### **1. Introduction**

#### **2. Magisterial Documents**

- i. Gaudium et Spes 1965 [The Church in the Modern World]
- ii. Populorum Progressio 1967 [The Development of Peoples]
- iii. Octagesimo Adveniens 1971 [A Call to Action]
- iv. Justice in the World 1971
- v. Laborem Exercens 1981 [On Human Work]
- vi. Sollicitudo Rei Socialis 1987 [The Social Concerns of the Church]
- vii. Centesimus Annus 1991 [One Hundred Years]
- viii. Caritas in Veritate 2009 [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth]

#### **3. Theological Teachings and Applications**

- i. Theology of Work
- ii. Leisure and the 'Sabbath Rest'
- iii. Taking Sides: The Preferential Option for the Poor
- iv. Consistent Ethic of Life
- v. The Spirituality of Social Involvement

#### **4. Social Issues: Analysis and Praxis**

- i. The Economy
- ii. The Just Wage
- iii. Labour Unions
- iv. Transnational Corporations
- v. Worker Sharing in Management, Ownership, Profits
- vi. Ecology and Responsibility for the Environment
- vii. Other Designated Issues

#### **5. Social Change**

In Society and in the Church

#### **6. Group Study and Work**

Involvement with other members of the class in joint study and research.

## **7. Personal Research**

Essay assignments

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKING: FIRST SEMESTER**

#### **A. MARKING AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

A purely theoretical instruction in humankind's social and economic obligations is inadequate. Practical training must also be given in the proper fulfilment of these obligations.

( Pope John XXIII, Mater et Magistra,# 230)

#### **1. PAPER #1:**

**Analysis of an assigned text from Caritas in Veritate 2009 [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth]-** Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3

**DUE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2011 (15 Marks)** [Paper Due at the end of Class]

This paper is based on an assigned section of the encyclical letter of Pope Benedict, **Caritas in Veritate 2009 [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth]**, taken from the Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3.

**It is 2-3 pages in length.** [1000-1500 words using font 12]

The paper is to have **Three** parts:

**Part One** is an accurate summary of **two teachings** contained in the assigned section. **{JUDGE}**

**Part Two** is **one concrete application** of the teachings to an important social issue in Canada or beyond. **{SEE and ACT}**

**Part Three** is to formulate **one question** that arises out of your study.

#### **2. PAPER #2**

**Analysis of an assigned text from Caritas in Veritate 2009 [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth]-** Chapters 4, 5, 6, and Conclusion

**DUE: OCTOBER 5, 2011 (15 Marks)** [Paper Due at the end of Class]

This paper is based on an assigned section of the encyclical letter of Pope Benedict, **Caritas in Veritate 2009 [On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth]**, taken from Chapters 4, 5, 6, and Conclusion.

**It is 2-3 pages in length.** [1000 - 1500 words using font 12]

The paper is to have **THREE** parts:

**Part One** is an accurate summary of **two teachings** contained in the assigned section. **{JUDGE}**

**Part Two** is **one concrete application** of the teachings to an important social issue in Canada or beyond. **{SEE and ACT}**

**Part Three** is to formulate **one question** that arises out of your study.

#### **3. MID-TERM TEST - -(One Hour, in class) - NOVEMBER 9, 2011(40 Marks)**

4. **PAPER #3:**  
**Analysis of a Specific Social Issue applying the Christian Catholic Social Teachings and drawing on the texts from Social Documents studied this semester**

**DUE AT THE END OF CLASS: DECEMBER 7, 2011 (30 Marks)**

**This paper is 5 to 6 pages in length.** [2000 - 2500 words using font 12]

This paper will analyze a specific Social Issue chosen from a list of presented topics by drawing on the social teachings and documents studies this semester. The paper should be properly footnoted.

The analysis will have **Three parts:**

**Part one** will clearly present the social issue according to the method of social analysis presented in the course. {SEE}

**Part two** will make judgements on the issue drawing on the teachings, principles and documents studied this semester. {JUDGE}

**Part three** will consider possible steps to be taken to work toward a solution of the problem studied. {ACT}

**5. Marking**

Paper # 1.....	15 Marks
Paper # 2.....	15 Marks
Mid-term test.....	40 Marks
Paper # 3.....	<u>30 Marks</u>
	<b><u>100 Marks</u></b>

**B. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: REQUIREMENTS**

**1. The Three Papers**

Paper #1 is **2 to3 pages in length.** [1000-1500 words using font 12]

Paper #2 is **2 to3 pages in length.** [1000-1500 words using font 12]

Paper #3 is **5 to 6 pages in length.** [2000-2500 words using font 12]

**2. Policies regarding Submission of Assignments and Tests**

- It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments can be completed on time.
- Assignments are to be handed in at the class on the due date. Assignments may not be dropped off at King's or submitted electronically.
- For a serious reason, a student may be granted an extension. On the form provided, the student is to write a brief explanation of the reason for the extension. This is to be signed by the teacher, with the extended date noted. A copy of the extension notice is given to the Dean.
- Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office.
- A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.
- No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or the examination, unless approved in advance by Student Services at the University or King's. (This refers to students with disabilities who have

permission to use a word processor to write their exams/tests.)

g. Students who miss tests will negotiate a “make-up” date with the professor. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean’s Office.

### **3. Internet References**

If references are given from internet sites the exact designation of the site must be given **along with** a hard copy of the page from which the quote is taken or to which the reference is made.

### **4. Academic Offenses**

a. “Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at the following web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.”

b. “All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com

(<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

### **5. MLA Style**

The MLA Style (Modern Language Association) is to be used in writing your papers: in the Bibliography/Works Cited and in the quotations in the text.

## **Select Bibliography and References**

### **1. Official Church Documents**

**Documents of the Popes.** See <http://www.vatican.va/holyfather>

**Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace: The Social Agenda: A Collection of Magisterial Texts.** Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vatican, 2000 [This whole document is found at [www.thesocialagenda.org](http://www.thesocialagenda.org) and [www.thesocialagenda.com](http://www.thesocialagenda.com)].

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [CCCCB] (Social Affairs Commission): “Responsibility and Discernment: Election [2004]”.** *Origins*, April 29, 2004 Vol. 33: No. 46, p. 785. [On Reserve]

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [CCCCB]: “The Struggle Against Poverty: A Sign of Hope for our World” [1996].** [On Reserve]

**Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario [ACBO] (Previously Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops -OCCB): Choosing a Government, [Pentecost 1998]** Toronto: Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998. See <http://www.acbo.on.ca/englishweb/publications.htm>

**Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario -ACBO (Previously Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops - OCCB): Taking Stock: an Examination of Conscience (2007).** See <http://www.acbo.on.ca/englishweb/publications.htm>



## **2. Other References**

**Dwyer, Judith A., Editor. The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought.** Collegeville, Minn.:Michael Glazier Book, The Liturgical Press,1994. [In the Reference Section of the Library]

**Finn, Daniel K., Editor. The True Wealth of Nations - Catholic Social Thought.** Oxford University Press, 2010

**Himes, Kenneth R. O.F.M., Editor Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations.** Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2005.

**ISARC - Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition. Faith to End Poverty Campaign, 2011**  
See [www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca) and [www.faithtoendpoverty.ca](http://www.faithtoendpoverty.ca) [Helpful material to prepare for the Provincial Election on October 6, 2011]

**McCarthy, David Matzko, Editor. The Heart of Catholic Social Teaching.** Brazos Press, 2009.

**Ryan, M. T. Solidarity: Christian Social Teaching and Canadian Society,** Second Edition, London ON: Guided Studies Programs in the Catholic Faith, 1990. [On Reserve]

**Walsh, Michael and Brian Davies, Editors. Proclaiming Justice and Peace: Papal Documents from Rerum Novarum through Centesimus Annus.** Mystic, Conn.: Twenty Third Publications, 1991. [Note: The index is more complete than in our text.] [On reserve]