Christian Social Teaching I
THEOLOGY 5231A
ARTS: RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2234F
ST. PETER’S SEMINARY, LONDON, ONTARIO

Thursday 9:30 am to 11:20 am, Room 102

Course Outline
September to December 2015

Professor: Fr. Frank O'Connor - [Phone 519-432-1824 ext. 235; email tfoconno@uwo.ca]
Professor: Fr. Murray Kuemper - [Phone 519-432-1824 ext. 226; email mkuemper@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 ASee, 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


Recommended Optional Text

[Note: These texts are used for both the first and second semester of this course]
CHRISTIAN SOCIAL TEACHING I  
FIRST SEMESTER  

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

Sept.10  
**Introduction**  
F. Overview: Social Analysis; Social Documents, Christian Social Principles

O’Brien & Shannon, pp. 1-8

Sept.17  
**Theology of Social Action & Social Analysis**  
M. Discussion #1: Chapter 13  
*Who are the Poor? The Social Attitudes*

*READ:* Solidarity, Ryan: *A Theology of Christian Social Action*, pp.15-23  
Social Attitudes of a Catholic, Ryan: Chapter 13 *Who are the Poor?* p. 41  

Sept.24  
**Seminar I: Pope Francis, Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home**  
2015

F. Read and study: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3 - Numbers 1 to 136  

*READ:* vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/ 2015  
Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3. Numbers 1 to 136  

**PAPER #1**  
Due Sept. 24 at the end of class [15 Marks]

Oct. 1  
**Seminar II: Pope Francis, Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home**  
2015

M. Read and study: Introduction, Chapters 4, 5, 6, - Numbers 137 to 246  
CCCB]: 2015 Federal Election: Making Our Voices Heard - Part II

*READ:* vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/ Chap.4, 5, 6. Numbers 137-246

**PAPER #2**  
Due Oct. 1 at the end of class [15 Marks]

Oct. 8  
**Guest Lecturer - Fr. Michael Ryan**  
On Pope Francis: *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* 2015

Oct. 15  
**Christian Social Principles I: Human Person, Human Society, Rights & Law**  
F. Discussion #2 Chapter 4 What do we mean by The dignity of the human person? in *Social Attitudes*, pp. 11-13

*READ:* Solidarity, Ryan, a*Basic Christian Social Principles*, pp. 24-32.  
Social Attitudes, Ryan: Chap. 4 What do we mean by aThe dignity of the human person? p 11-13
Oct. 22  [First Hour] TEST (35 Marks)

Oct. 29  Study Day

Nov. 5  **Rerum Novarum: [The Condition of Labour]** Context, Themes, Text, Conclusions

F. **Overview of the Social Documents**

**Property: Meaning and Use**


*Solidarity, Ryan, Property: Meaning and Use, pp.35-47.*

Nov. 12  **Quadragesimo Anno: [After Forty Years], Context, Themes, Texts, Conclusions**

M. **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.


*Social Attitudes, Ryan, Farming p. 80-82*

Nov.19  **Pacem in Terris [Peace on Earth],** Context, Themes, Texts, Conclusions.

F.


Nov.26  **Christian Social Principles II - Human Person & Family & Common Good**

M.


*The Family, The Vital Cell of Society, pp. 95-114*

*Social Attitudes, Ryan, What is the Common Good?, pp. 17-19.*

[November 26th : Only for those in Religious Studies 2234F] PAPER #3: Take home exam distributed today and is due at the end of the class: DECEMBER 3, 2015 [35 Marks]

Dec. 3  The Spirituality of Social Justice

F. **Summary and Conclusions**

*READ: Social Attitudes, Ryan. AMorality, Spirituality, Culture, pp 1-10. [Chapters 1, 2, 3]*

**PAPER #3 [Only for those in Religious Studies 2234F]**

*Take home exam is due at the end of the class today: DECEMBER 3, 2015 [35 Marks]*

**NOTE:**

1. There will be no final exam in Christmas exam period for those in Religious Studies.
2. There will be an Oral Exam for those in Theology 5231A.
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] - Pope Leo XIII
   ii. Quadragesimo Anno 1931 [The Reconstruction of the Social Order] - Pope Pius XI
   iii. Mater et Magistra 1961 [Christianity and Social Progress] - Pope John XXIII
   v. Laudato Si 2015 [On Care for our Common Home] - Pope Francis

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


   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]
   ix. Laudato Si 2015 [On the Care of Our Common Home]

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. Aboriginal Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
   viii. 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: (15 Marks)

   Analysis of an assigned text from Pope Francis Laudato Si [On Care for Our Common Home] Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3

   DUE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 (15 Marks) [Paper Due at the end of Class]

   This paper is based on an assigned section of the encyclical letter of Pope Francis, Laudato Si [On Care for Our Common Home] 2015, 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 (15 Marks)

   Analysis of an assigned text from Pope Francis Laudato Si [On Care for Our Common Home] Chapters 4, 5, 6,

   DUE: OCTOBER 1, 2015 (15 Marks) [Paper Due at the end of Class]

   This paper is based on an assigned section of the encyclical letter of Pope Francis, Laudato Si [On Care for Our Common Home] Chapters 4, 5, 6.

   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) - OCTOBER 22, 2015 (35 Marks)
4. **FINAL EXAM**

A. **PAPER #3** [Only for those in Religious Studies 2234F]

Take home exam will be distributed on Thursday, November 26\(^{th}\), 2015 and is due at the end of the class: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3\(^{RD}\), 2015 [35 Marks]

OR

B. **ORAL EXAM** [Only for those in Theology 5231A]

This oral exam will be during the exam period and will follow the outline distributed at the end of the course. [35 Marks]

5. **MARKING**

**Theology 5231A**

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**Religious Studies 2234F**

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**B. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: REQUIREMENTS**

1. **The Three Papers**

   Paper #1 is **2 to 3 pages in length**, [1000-1500 words using font 12] [For everyone]
   Paper #2 is **2 to 3 pages in length**, [1000-1500 words using font 12] [For everyone]
   Paper #3 is **Take-Home Exam [Only for those in RS 2234F]**

2. **Policies regarding Submission of Assignments and Tests**
   a. It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments can be completed on time.
   b. 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.
   c. 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.

d. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean=s Office.

e. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

f. 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. 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.

5. University Regulations and Support Services

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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.

Students are responsible for knowing the University=s academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.
Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) http://westernusc.ca/services/.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King’s is available at http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/

The web site for Academic Services at King’s University College is: http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/academic-support/

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

1. Official Church Documents: Vatican, Canadian Bishops, Ontario Bishops

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

CCCB Pub.: Ottawa, 2015 (Available at UWO Bookstore & at http://www.vatican.va/holyfather


2. Other References


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


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]