Ethical Challenges and Laudato Si: A Franciscan Perspective
Fall Semester 2017

Prof: Martín Carbajal Núñez, OFM
Fall Semester 2017 – Franciscan School of Theology
Monday 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Office: Mission San Luis Rey, Faculty Wing
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Course Description
This course will examine some of the major ethical challenges in our society from the perspective of Catholic social teaching (CST) and the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition. More specifically, the course will be focused on the encyclical Laudato Si’, trying to identify its Franciscan roots and its proposal for an integral ecology that encompasses all aspects of personal and social life.

Main practical objectives

- Understand the profound relationship that exists between caring for nature and being true to him/herself as a person
- To stimulate the moral imagination
- To develop the ability for critical analysis on the moral values of life in society (reflection)
- To acquire the capacity of publicly sustaining a reasonable position while being open to dialogue and pluralism (argument)
- To strengthen the sense of moral responsibility towards our common home (life)

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will be expected:
  - To recognize the importance of moral and spiritual values for integral sustainability.
  - To identify the Franciscan roots of the encyclical Laudato Si’ and the specificity of the CST approach to human relationship with nature and social life.
  - To become more conscious of the strong bonds of kinship that link us with the rest of nature and the absurdity of a strong anthropocentrism.
  - To be aware of the need of promoting an integral development in all its human, cultural, educational, and social dimensions.
  - To be familiar with the major values, principles, and themes which recur in the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition and be able to apply them today.
To *heighten* their awareness about the causes of the current socio-environmental crisis and the need to overcome the technocratic paradigm.

**Required Texts**


3. **PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church** (Available online - hereafter: CSDC)

**Expectations**

- Before the class
  - The week before, a student will be assigned as leader to start the discussion for each document/commentary with a five-minute presentation.
  - Students will be required to read both primary sources and secondary texts, which will be the focus of discussions in the class.
  - Students will come to class having read all the material assigned and having submitted a half a page written reflection on one of the required readings. Those materials indicated as “Other readings (optional)” are recommended, but not required.

- Class Format:
  - Every lesson will have two different sections: one will focus on the book MCN, which will be the text of reference during the whole course; the second will deal with related aspects of the integral ecology proposed by the encyclical Laudato Si’ and with important topics of the CST.
  - Consistently thoughtful and active participation in class is essential to the success of this course. Attendance is only a precondition for participation, not the measure of it.
  - Students are expected to provide well-reasoned contributions to class discussions and be prepared to raise questions in response to the readings.

- Final exam:
  - There will be a final written exam that could be preceded by a mid-term.

**Weekly Assignments and written reflection**

- You should not attempt to cover everything, but simply make one or two points that clarify some aspect of the reading and stimulate thought.
You can follow these steps outlined by Richard Gula:
  o A) Identify the subject of the reading (just one brief sentence)
  o B) Critical Reflection:
    2) How does this article/unit affirm your present understanding of the topic. *In this article I relearned that...*
    3) What new insight(s) did you gain from this article/unit? *I was surprised to learn that...*
    4) What questions does this article raise for you? *I need to think more about...*
  o C) Appropriation:
    5) Share an anecdote from your life that illustrates your experience with the insights of this article/unit. *I remember when...*
    6) What would it be like to incorporate the insights from this unit to how I think and live? *If I act upon these insights...*

- Students who have a disability requiring accommodation should contact the FST Title IX Coordinator (Garrett Galvin) or Assistant (Donna Foley).

Components of the Class (Evaluation procedure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>30%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-91%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90-88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-80%</td>
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Course Outline & Schedule

**September 11:** (lesson online: this week I will be lecturing in Colombia/Perú)

- 1. Course overview: Syllabus, course description and requirements
- 2. The Spirit of Assisi: Dialogue to face the current ethical challenges.

- **“The Spirit of Assisi:** the contribution by religions to peaceful coexistence in society:
  - See this video: https://youtu.be/xZqGVLDiKYc (50 minutes)
  - Text with footnotes (see)
  - Powerpoint presentation (see)

- Read:
  - LS n. 163-201 (Lines of approach and action: dialogue)
September 18:
- 1. Clarification of concepts: ethics, morals, CST and Moral Theology, Vatican II orientations, CST major docs, etc.
- 2. Christian anthropology vs other ways of seeing the human being (part 1)

- Read:
  - CSDC n. 60-86.
  - Second Vatican Council: GS 10, 22, 45; OT 16
  - Catechism (CCC): 50-114, 131-133, 1691-1748, 2052-2063, 2083-2087, 2090-2093

- Other possible readings (optional):
  - Encyclical Rerum Novarum (On the condition of labor)
  - Shannon, Thomas A., Rerum novarum, (MCST 127 – 150

September 25:
- 1. Christian anthropology vs other ways of seeing the human being (part 2)
- 2. Ecology and environmental ethics

- Read:
  - LS n. 1-16
  - MCN 8-21
  - CSDC 451-460 (Safeguarding the environment)
  - USCCB, Quotes from Church teaching on ecology; Pastoral Aids

- Other readings (optional):
  - BACON, Francis, The Great Instauration of Human Control in the Universe
  - Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World)
  - Hollenbach, David, Gaudium et Spes (MCST 266 – 291).
October 2:
- 1. CST guiding principles: Human dignity and the Common good
- 2. The problem of sustainability

- 1) Read:
  - LS n. 17-61 (What is happening to our common home)
  - MCN p. 21-30
  - “Antropogenic climate change”, in CBC\textsuperscript{1} Germany, Climate Change: A Focal Point of Global, Intergenerational and Ecological Justice, 2\textsuperscript{nd} ed., 2007, pages 11-31

- Other readings (optional):

October 9
- 1. A self-sufficient freedom
- 2. Human rights as an ethical peace project

- Read:
  - LS n. 101-114 (Technology & technocratic paradigm)
  - MCN 30-39.
  - CSDC 461-465 (The crisis in the relationship between man and the environment)
  - USCCB, Global climate change 2016 (Global climate change, 2001; Letter to Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State feb 17, 2017)

- Other readings (optional):
  - CBC\_Philippines, What is happening to our beautiful land, Jan. 29, 1988 (8 pages).
  - Encyclical Pacem in terris, (Peace on Earth)
  - Christiansen, Drew, Pacem in terris (MCST 217-243).

October 16 (reading week)

October 23:
- 1. Freedom in St. Francis and the Franciscan Tradition
- 2. Peace: How to be builders of peace; war, violence, death penalty: a moral assessment

\textsuperscript{1} CBC stands for “Catholic Bishops Conference”
- 1) Read:
  - LS n. 63-100 (the Gospel of creation)
  - MCN 116, 122-137
  - CoC 19-64 (Creation and Incarnation)

- Other readings (optional):
  - Encyclical Pacem in terris, (Peace on Earth)
  - Christiansen, Drew, Pacem in terris (MCST 217-243).

October 30:
- 1. Gratuitousness excluded or ignored
- 2. War, “Just war”, Death penalty

- Read:
  - LS n. 115-136 (Modern anthropocentrism)
  - MCN 40-46.

- Other readings (optional):
  - USCCB, “LS discussion guide”; LS on page summary; Briefing.

November 6:
- 1. The logic of gift in St. Francis and the Franciscan Tradition
- 2. Social justice

- Read:

- Other readings (optional):
  - CBC_Canada. “You Love All that Exists… All Things are Yours, God, Lover of Life”, October 4, 2013.
• Encyclical Populorum progressio (On the development of Peoples)
• DECK, Allan F. Populorum progressio (MCST 292-314).

November 13:
- 1. Instrumental relationships
- 2. Dignity of work and workers

- Read:
  • LS n. 137-155 (Integral ecology)
  • MCN 46-51

- Other readings (optional):
  • EDWARDS, Denis, “Earth as God’s creation. The theology of the natural world in Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’”, in Phronema 31/2 (2016) 1-16.
  • Encyclical Laborem exercens (On human work)
  • LAMOUREUX, Patricia A., Laborem exercens (MCST 389 – 414).

November 20:
- 1. Fraternity in St. Francis and the Franciscan tradition
- 2. Private property

- Read:
  • MCN 119-120, 146-158.
  • CoC 65-108 (Creation as family)

- Other readings (optional):
  • BALS, Christoph, A successful provocation for a pluralistic global society, Bonn 2016, p. 43-59 (Paradigm shift from rulers of the environment to partaking universal fraternity)
  • Encyclical Centesimus annus, (The hundredth year)
  • FINN, Daniel (MCST 436-466).
November 27:
- 1. Total good instead of common good
- 2. Faith & Politics: The role of religion in the public realm

- Read:
  - LS n. 156-162
  - MCN 51-58
  - CSDC 466-485 (The environment, a collective good)

- Other readings (optional):
  - Encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, (On social concern)

December 4:
- 1. Spirituality and ecological conversion in the light of the *Laudato Si’*
- 2. Economic justice & the Preferential Option for the Poor

- Read:
  - LS n. 216-246
  - MCN 178-211
  - CoC 109-142 (Creation and contemplation)

- Other readings (optional):
  - CSDC n. 486-487
  - KIM, Yeongseon, “St. Francis of Assisi and ecological conversion”, in *Catholic Theology and Thought* 78 (2017) 47-86
  - Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth)

December 11:
- 1. The common good in St. Francis and the Franciscan Tradition
- 2. Caring together for the common good

- Read:
  - LS n. 202-215
  - MCN 211-224
- CoC 155-199 (Creation and conversion)

- Other readings (optional):

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### RUBRICS FOR WRITING PROJECTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>“A” Range</th>
<th>“B” Range</th>
<th>“C” Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis and Purpose</strong></td>
<td>The thesis and purpose of the project are clearly expressed.</td>
<td>The thesis and purpose are somewhat clear, with the boundaries and scope a bit vague.</td>
<td>The thesis is unclear and the purpose of the project is ill-defined.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support</strong></td>
<td>• The development of the thesis is well thought-out, includes all relevant evidence, and respects the inner logic of the material.</td>
<td>• Supporting details are adequate though some important material is missing.</td>
<td>• Supporting material is disorganized and inadequate.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Use of quoted material does not substitute for student’s own development of the thesis.</td>
<td>• Resources are too limited.</td>
<td>• Analysis is superficial, shows signs of struggling to understand the relevant issues.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The paper is convincing, leaving no important aspect of the topic unaddressed.</td>
<td>• Paper shows understanding of relevant issues but lacks depth.</td>
<td>• Lacks connections between related ideas, concepts, and themes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organizatio</strong>n</td>
<td>• Introduction draws the reader in, and the conclusion leaves the reader</td>
<td>• Introduction does not create a strong sense of anticipation and the conclusion does not tie</td>
<td>• There is no clear set-up of the project and the conclusion does</td>
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<td>“B” Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>with a sense of resolution.</td>
<td>the paper together into a coherent whole.</td>
<td>not wrap things up.</td>
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<td>• Material is presented in an orderly fashion.</td>
<td>• Ideas generally ordered, though key connections between ideas are missing.</td>
<td>• Logical ordering of material is vague with major points undeveloped.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Paragraphs are well-focused and coherent.</td>
<td>• Transitions leave connections between ideas fuzzy.</td>
<td>• Transitions are absent or weak.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transitions are thoughtful and show how ideas are connected with major sections and subdivisions clearly marked.</td>
<td>• Opening paragraph(s) do(es) not give clear direction of project and conclusion does not bring together key themes.</td>
<td>• Introduction does not capture the scope of the project and conclusion lacks focus.</td>
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<td>• Major points are clear with the subordinate points clearly distinguished from the key, controlling ones.</td>
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<td>• Transitions are absent or weak.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Style</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use of English is generally effective.</strong></td>
<td><strong>English is poorly used.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Uses English effectively to communicate thesis.</td>
<td>• Grammatical and punctuation errors distract from the flow of the presentation.</td>
<td>• Too many grammatical and punctuation errors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Paragraphs are well-focused and coherent.</td>
<td>• Use of technical terms is confusing.</td>
<td>• The material is not properly subdivided with headings and subheadings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Uses technical terms accurately.</td>
<td>• Headings and subheads do not effectively present the relation of the material.</td>
<td>• Quotations and summaries break the flow of the piece and do not seem to fit.</td>
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<td>• Few errors of grammar and punctuation guide the reader through the text.</td>
<td>• Correctly uses headings and subheads.</td>
<td>• Errors in grammar distract and interfere with meaning.</td>
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### Bibliography:


- **Bishops’ conferences on Ecology (quoted in LS):**
  - CBC_Canada, *“You Love All that Exists… All Things are Yours, God, Lover of Life”*, October 4, 2003.
  - CBC_New_Zealand, *“Statement on environmental issues”*, Sep 1, 2006.
  - CBC_Australia, *“A new Earth”*, 2002.
  - CBC_Argentina, *“Una_tierra_para.todos”*, 2005.
• CBC_Mexico, “Jesucristo, vida y esperanza de los indígenas y campesinos”, 2008.