



Syllabus

Catholic Social Teaching and *Laudato Si'*

Fall Semester 2018

Prof: Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM

Fall Semester 2018 – Franciscan School of Theology

Monday 6:00 – 9:00pm

Office: Mission San Luis Rey, Faculty Wing

Office Hours: By Appointment

E-mail: mcarbajo@fst.edu

Course Description

The
purpose
of this
course
is

- “Catholic social teaching (CST) is a central and essential element of our faith” and so there is an urgent need of a strengthened commitment to sharing it “at every level of Catholic education and faith formation” (USCCB).
- This course will study CST, with a special focus on the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, in order to develop skills for critically applying this teaching to present ethical dilemmas and to topics related to social justice and integral ecology.
- The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition will be also a source of inspiration

Main practical objectives

- To understand the profound relationship that exists between social life 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 (life)

1. Social life and being authentic

To make of
social life **a**
humanly
positive and
favorable
environment

- where every person can become fully what he/she already is
- reaching his/her full human potential.
- to reflect on what everybody should do **in order to being true to him/herself** as an intrinsically social being.

2. To stimulate the moral imagination

**The heart
is our way
of entry
into the
moral
dimensions
of
existence.**

- It is through the emotional experience that we are moved to start our moral reflection,
- The feelings of anguish we experience in front of a handicapped child, **the anger in front injustice, for example,**
 - open us to the moral dimensions of existence **and already represent a preliminary phase of our moral judgment.**
- We begin our rational analysis when we feel that there are important values at stake.
- That's why we aim to evoke in us empathy, attention and sensitivity to the values of human experience

3. To develop the ability for critical analysis

The emotional response

- is not yet an articulated moral judgment, but reflects what we consider as morally relevant.
- **It will therefore be necessary**
 - to identify the elements present in that response that somehow reflect the moral dimensions of our experience
 - to clarify the values and beliefs that determine our way of living in society.
 - to articulate clearly what we consider morally important and then to evaluate it in light of the wider Christian moral tradition

4. Publicly sustaining a reasonable position

The field of ethics is today very open to debate:

- many different and contrasting positions.
- While we must strive to be very precise and coherent in our way of reasoning, we must also learn to be receptive towards legitimate differences, viewpoints and methods.

Instead of immediately labeling an opinion as negative,

- we will try to develop the capacity for dialogue and understanding,
- We will try to explore strategies to publicly support a reasonable position.
- CST: to be assumed after a serious reflection

5. To strengthen the sense of moral responsibility (life)

The study of CST

should not be reduced to a theoretical debate on what a person "should" or shouldn't do in society,

It must also have a tangible influence on our practical behavior.

Our study of moral theology

Should move us to put into practice what we perceived as good.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be expected

- to become familiar with the CST Foundational documents, basic truths and anthropology.
- to identify the major values, principles, and themes which recur in the CST documents and be able to apply them in contemporary situations
- to explore the ways in which the CST strike a balance between 1) the goods of individual dignity and liberty; and 2) concern for the community and the common good.
- 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 revise the dualistic anthropology that has led to the throwaway culture and to assume an integral ecology, and a spirituality that “can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world” (LS 216)

Required Texts:

- Himes, Kenneth R., ed., *Modern Catholic Social Teaching. Commentaries & interpretations*, Georgetown Univ. Press, Washington DC 2005 (*MCST*).
- Carbajo Núñez M., *Sister Mother Earth. Franciscan Roots of the Laudato Si'*, Tau Publishing, Phoenix (AZ) 2017, 265 pages, ISBN 978-1-61956-560-9, List price: \$19 (hereafter: MCN)
- Major Papal, Vatican and [USCB](#) documents

Recommended Texts:

- Delio I. – K.D. Warner – P. Wood, *Care for Creation. A Franciscan spirituality of the earth*, Franciscan media, Cincinnati 2007, (hereafter: CoC)
- Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (Available online - hereafter: CSDC)
- Carbajo Núñez, Martín, *A free and fraternal economy. The Franciscan perspective*, Ed. Tau Publishing, Phoenix, AZ, 2017, 245 pages.

Before the class

Expectations

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
- having submitted a half a page written reflection on one of the required readings.
- Those materials indicated as “other possible readings” are recommended, but not required.

Class Format:

Expectations

Every lesson will have two different sections:

- the first will focus on one CST foundational document;
- the second will develop a social theme with the magisterial documents cited as part of the discussion.

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.

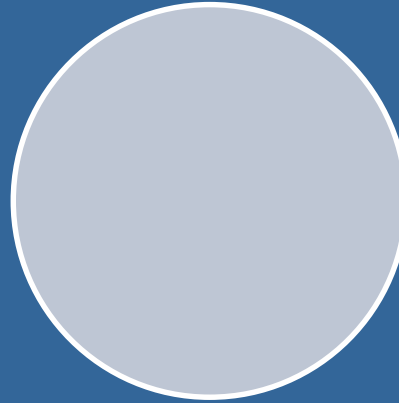
Students are expected to provide well-reasoned contributions to class discussions and be prepared to raise questions in response to the readings

Expectations

Final exam:

- **There will be a final written or oral exam, that could be preceded by a mid-term.**

Expectations



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:

A) • Identify the subject of the reading (just one brief sentence)

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 ...*

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 ...*

Components of the Class (Evaluation procedure)

- **Participation 30%**
- **Weekly Assignments 35%**
- **Final exam 35%**

Grading Scale

- **A 100-95%**
- **A- 94-91%**
- **B+ 90-88%**
- **B 87-80%**

Course Outline & Schedule

September 10 - Introduction

- **Course overview:**

- Syllabus, course description and requirements
- Clarification of concepts: Morality and ethics; Specificity of the CST within Catholic theology, Vatican II orientations, CST major docs, etc.

- **Read:**

- CSDC n. 60-86.
- Other possible readings:
 - [*Veritatis Splendor*](#) (VS): 2, 8, 12, 15, 25-30, 83, 85, 109-117.
 - [Catechism](#) (CCC): 50-114, 131-133, **1691-1748**, 2052-2063, 2083-2087, 2090-2093. The necessity of the Moral Law: 1959, 2070, 2242.

Course Outline & Schedule

Self-assessment:

- Similarities and differences between a study on morality done by sociologists and one done by theologians
- The Bible, the Tradition and the Magisterium are "sources" of moral theology. Why? Why even reason is a "source" (secondary)?
- Distinguish between a moral value and other types of value?
- Why is the moral value the most important and the one which defines people more deeply?

1) The social nature of human beings

- **The truth about man: theological anthropology & CST.**
- Other anthropological theories: how CST differs from social, political, and economic ideologies.

2) Read

- **Read:**
 - Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On the condition of labor)
 - Shannon, Thomas A., *Rerum novarum*, (MCST 127 – 150).
 - MCN 8-21.
- Other possible readings:
 - CSDC n. 105-151.
 - Pope, Stephen J. *Natural law in CST* (MCST 41-71)
 - The social nature of the human person (CCC, 1878-1889, 1929)
 - Trinitarian *communio* & social life (CCC 267, 738, 1693).

1)

- **Background and Foundations of Modern CST**
 - Biblical Roots and historical development
 - Sources, Methodology, Principles & Application
 - Key documents

2) Read

- **Read:**
 - Encyclical *Quadragesimo anno* (After forty years)
 - Hinze, Christine F., *Quadragesimo anno* (MCST 151-174).
 - MCN 122-137 (Freedom as the origin and destiny of all that exists)
 - Other possible readings:
 - CSDC n. 87-104.
 - Donahue, John R., *The Bible and CST* (MCST 9-40).

1)

- **CST guiding principles: Human dignity and the Common good**

2)
Read

- **Read:**
 - Encyclical *Mater et Magistra*, (Mother and Teacher)
 - Mich, Marvin L., *Mater et Magistra* (MCST 191-216).
 - MCN 211-220
- **Other possible readings:**
 - CSDC n. 160-170.
 - Schuck, Michael J, *Early Modern Roman CST 1740-1890* (MCST 99-126)
 - USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*.

1)

- **CST guiding principles: subsidiarity and solidarity** (fraternity)
- Preferential option for the poor & Universal destination of good
- CST fundamental social values
- CST most important documents

October 8

2) Read

- **Read:**
 - Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (The Church in the Modern World)
 - Hollenbach, David, *Gaudium et Spes* (MCST 266 – 291).
 - MCN 146-156 (a big family in Christ)
 - Other possible readings:
 - CSDC n. 171-208
 - U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, 1998.

1)

- **Peace: How to be builders of peace;**
- **War, violence, death penalty: a moral assessment**

October 22

2)
Read

- **Read:**
 - Encyclical *Pacem in terris*, (Peace on Earth)
 - Christiansen, Drew, *Pacem in terris* (MCST 217-243).
 - MCN 43-50.
- **Other possible readings:**
 - Mcn2 40-46
 - CSDC n. 488-520.
 - USCCB, A culture of Life and the Penalty of Death.
 - USCCB, The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and our Response
 - Curran, Charles E., *The reception of Catholic approaches to Peace and War in the USA* (MCST 493-521)
 - USCCB, *A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty*
 - USCCB, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice.*

1)

- **Human rights as an ethical peace project**

October 29

2)
Read

- **Read:**
 - Apostolic letter *Octogesima adveniens*, (A call to action)
 - Gudorf, Christine E., *Octogesima adveniens* (MCST 315-332)
 - MCN 51-54 (Total good)
- **Other possible readings:**
 - CSDC n. 152-159
 - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *The Church and Human rights*.
 - Statement of the Synod of Bishops, *Justice in the World*, 1971.

1)

- **Social Justice and politics**

November 5

2)
Read

- **Read:**

- Encyclical *Populorum progressio* (On the development of Peoples)
- Deck, Allan F. *Populorum progressio* (MCST 292-314).
- Carbajo Núñez M., «The contribution by religions to peaceful coexistence in society», in *Studia Moralia* 53/1 (2015) 83-101.
- Types of justice (CCC 2411-2412, 1807): Distributive (CCC, 2236-2411), Legal, Commutative, Social (CCC, 1928-42)

- **Other possible readings:**

- Himes Kenneth R., *Justitia in Mundo* (MCST 333-362).
- MCN 51-55; Mcn2 68-83 (Religion & economic change)
- CSDC n. 377-450
- USCCB, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, 2015.
- *Evangelii Gaudium*, §§50-75, 176-258.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, *Doctrinal Note on some question regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*.

1)

• Dignity of work and workers

• Read:

- Encyclical *Laborem exercens*
- Lamoureux, Patricia A., *Laborem exercens* (MCST 389 – 414).
- Mcn2 48-55; 101-106 (Labour)
- Other possible readings
 - CSDC n. 255-322.
 - USCCB, Respecting the Just Rights of Workers.

2)
Read

1)

• Private property

2)
Read

- Read:
 - Encyclical *Centesimus annus*, (The hundredth year)
 - Finn, Daniel (*MCST* 436-466).
 - MCN 138-146 (The logic of Gift)
- **Other possible readings:**
 - Pontifical council for Justice and Peace, *The Universal Purpose of created things*, (2011) (original 1979)
 - USCCB: "Economic Justice for All", 1986, Intro & Chapter 2
 - USCCB, *Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope*, 2003.

1) • Franciscan Spirituality and Integral Ecology

2) Read

- Read:
 - Encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, (On social concern)
 - Curran, Charles E. – Himes, Kenneth R., *Sollicitudo rei socialis* (MCST 415-435).
 - Carbajo Núñez, Martin, «Franciscan Spirituality and Integral ecology. Relational bases vs the Throwaway culture».
- **Other possible readings:**
 - Delio, Ilia, "Evangelical life today living in the ecological Christ.
 - Warner, Keith, "Franciscan environmental ethics. Imagining creation as a community of care",
 - Kim, Yeongseon, "St. Francis of Assisi and ecological conversion".

1)

• Ecological sin and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

December 3

2)
Read

- **Read:**
 - Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth)
 - Carbajo Núñez, Martin, «Ecological sin and the Sacrament of Reconciliation», in *Verdad y Vida* 280 (2018).
- **MCN 105-111; Mcn2 109-120**
- **Other possible readings:**
 - CSDC n. 323-376.
 - Gaudium et Spes, §§ 63-76; CCC, §§2401-2463.
 - Curran, Charles E., The reception of Catholic Social and Economic Teaching in the USA (MCST 469-521).
 - Pontifical council for Justice and Peace, *Social and ethical aspects of economics*, 2011.

1)

- Global ethical challenges in the light of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

December 10

2)
Read

- **Read:**
 - Francesco, Encyclical *Laudato Si'*.
 - CSDC n. 451-487
 - Carbajo Nuñez, Martin, «Global ethical challenges in the light of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the Jubilee of Mercy
 - Delio – K.D. Warner – P. Wood, *Care for Creation. A Franciscan spirituality of the earth*, Franciscan Media, Cincinnati 2007, 81-93.
- **Other possible readings:**
 - USCCB, *Renewing the Earth*
 - Edwards, Denis, "Ecological theology: Trinitarian perspectives"
 - Damonte, Marco, "God, the Bible and the environment. An historical excursus on the relationship between Christian religion and ecology, in *Relations* 5.1 (2017) 27-45.

Bibliography

- Benestad, J.Brian, *Church, State, and Society. An Introduction to Catholic Social Doctrine*, Catholic University of America Press, Washington, D.C. 2011.
- Brigham, Erin M. *See, Judge, Act: Catholic Social Teaching and Service Learning*, Anselm Academic, Winona, MN, 2013.
- O'Brien, David J. - Shannon, Thomas A., *Catholic Social Thought. The Documentary Heritage*, Orbis Books, Maryknoll N.Y. 2010.
- Clark, Meghan J., *The Vision of Catholic Social Thought: The Virtue of Solidarity and the Praxis of Human Rights*, Fortress Press, Minneapolis 2014.
- Himes, Kenneth R., *Responses to 101 Questions on Catholic Social Teaching*, Paulist Press, New York ²2013.
- Massaro, Thomas , S.J. *Living Justice, Catholic Social Teaching in Action*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham ³2016.
- Wiilliams, Thomas D. *The World as it Could Be, Catholic Social Thought for a New Generation*, Crossroads, New York 2011.

Web page

**The
syllabus
and
other
materials
will be
available
also at**

• www.antoniano.org

Password: fst@2009

