

SYLLABUS

SAT3942HF Papal Teaching on Social Justice; Fall 2011

Rev. Thomas A. Lynch (St. Augustine's Seminary)

ta.lynch@utoronto.ca

416-261-7207

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the social thought of the Catholic Church through papal and magisterial documents. A select group of social issues is examined in the light of these teachings.

GOALS OF THE COURSE

- To familiarize the students with source material of Catholic Social Thought.
- To examine particular social issues.
- To situate Catholic Social Teachings within the appropriate context.
- To apply principles of Catholic Social Thought to actual problems in the student's purview.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To acquaint oneself with significant documents on Catholic Social Thought
- To explore continuing and developing social justice themes
- To apply principles to particular social problems
- To examine the depth of Catholic social principles.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Read and analyze papal encyclicals and magisterial documents on social thought
- Examine specific social problems as to solutions
- Engage in continuing discussions on particular social issues in light of Catholic Social Thought
- Incorporate Catholic Social Thought as an integral part of Catholic doctrine.

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

Participation in weekly discussions: (directions in Orientation Unit)	30%
Social Analysis Project (12-15 pages, 12 point font, double-spaced Due by midnight Nov 30)	30%
Final Written Exam (will be released on Dec 12 and must be submitted by midnight Dec 18)	40%

LATE POLICY

Late postings cannot be accepted, since the discussion is over. The submission date for the Social Analysis Project must be met unless prior permission for late submission is received from the instructor. The final exam cannot legally be accepted after the end of the exam week.

Criteria for evaluation can be found in the TST BD Handbook
(<http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks>)

A ⁺	90 - 100	Profound and Creative
A	85 - 89	Outstanding
A ⁻	80 - 84	Excellent : clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations, broad knowledge base.
B ⁺	77 - 79	Very good
B	73 - 76	Good : good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues, good familiarity with the literature
B ⁻	70 - 72	Satisfactory : adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues and with the literature
FZ	0 - 69	Failure : failure to meet the above criteria

OUTLINE OF WEEKLY UNITS

Week 1 (September 12)
<u>Unit 1</u> Historical and Scriptural Foundations
Week 2 (September 19)
<u>Unit 2</u> <u>Rerum Novarum</u> (Leo XIII, May 15, 1891) [Christian Social Principles]
Week 3 (September 26)
<u>Unit 3</u> <u>Quadragesimo Anno</u> (Pius XI, May 15, 1931) [Property]
Week 4 (October 3)
<u>Unit 4</u> <u>Mater et Magistra</u> (John XXIII, May 15, 1961) [Labour Unions]
Week 5 (October 10)
<u>Unit 5</u> <u>Pacem in Terris</u> (Pope John XXIII, April 11, 1963) [Concepts of war and violence]
Week of October 17
Reading Week, no class
Week 6 (October 24)

Unit 6

Gaudium et Spes (Vatican II, December 7, 1965)

[Poverty]

Week 7 (October 31)

Unit 7

Populorum Progressio (Paul VI, March 26, 1967)

[Immigration and Refugees]

Week 8 (November 7)

Unit 8

Octagesima Adveniens (Paul VI, May 14, 1971)

[Liberation Theology]

Week 9 (November 14)

Unit 9

Laborem Exercens (John Paul II, September 14, 1981)

[A theology of work]

Week 10 (November 21)

Unit 10

A Christian Marketplace – Guest Speaker: Jim Roddy

Week 11 (November 28)

Unit 11

Centesimus Annus (John Paul II, May 1, 1991)

[Globalization, new economies, new corporations]

Week 12 (December 5)

Unit 12

Caritas in Veritate (Benedict XVI, June 29, 2009)

[Continuing questions]

December 12: FINAL EXAM

COURSE TEXTS

This course will deal with primary documents. Since many of the original texts were in Latin, with its typical long sentences the numbering system varied with each translation. Therefore, it is necessary for us as a group to use the same Vatican translation. With the exception of the Vatican II documents which have a Standard English translation and numeration, we will use.

A NOTE ON REQUIRED READINGS

Often magisterial language can seem archaic and dense. It is necessary to slug away and realize that the writer(s) are writing for several audiences. Since this course is “time released”, the instructional units will be posted one week at a time. However, if your schedule permits (or demands!), you are free to read ahead. You will be able to access the list of required readings by going to the “Reading Schedule”.

It is essential to read the early documents since Catholic social thought builds inexorably one upon the other.