

Justice and Catholic Social Teaching

MOR D528-01

Jean deBlois, CSJ

3 credits

deblois@ai.edu

Tuesdays 8:45 – 11:15am

314-256-8874

Office hours: Monday through Thursday: 9 – 11:30

Course Description: This course begins with a brief overview of the Catholic social encyclical tradition. Following upon that, we will engage an in-depth study of the principles and values articulated in this tradition as they apply to current issues of social ethics. Topics to be explored include but are not limited to: the foundational principles of human dignity and the common good and their meaning for Christian discipleship; the meaning and implications of justice as articulated in Catholic Social Teaching (CST); the meaning of work and workers rights in light of the present reality of joblessness in the U.S. and elsewhere; economic justice and the reality of wealth disparity in the US and beyond; the meaning and demands of the preferential option for poor and vulnerable persons; CST and issues of migration/immigration; CST and the culture of consumption; the ethical challenges raised by environmental degradation, etc.

The course is designed to help students grapple with these issues in more than simply an intellectual way. Toward that end, students will engage in weekly theological reflection in order to enter their own experience and get in touch with feelings or emotional responses raised by assigned texts, lectures, case studies etc. The hoped for outcome is that students will adopt some form of committed action, i.e., social engagement, with regard to at least one of the issues studied in the course.

Course Goals: Students will

- Identify and understand the core principles, values and methodology of Roman Catholic Social Teaching;
- Understand the forces, movements and events which have shaped the development of the Roman Catholic social tradition;
- Apply the core principles of Roman Catholic social teaching to contemporary issues of social ethics;
- Commit themselves to some kind of action or social engagement with an issue(s) of their choice.

Required Texts: TBD