AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MOR-D528-01	Catholic Social Teaching	3 credits
Fr. Leo Almazán, O. P.		Fall 2014
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Contemporary Catholic social teaching (henceforth CST) is primarily contained in Papal Encyclicals and other Church documents that have looked to provide clear guidance and respond to perplexing social issue(s), such as the life and dignity of the human person; a call to family, community, and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and the vulnerable; the dignity of work and of the worker; solidarity; and care for God's creation.

Course Description:

This course explores the major texts, which form the basis for contemporary CST, (1) in light of a continuing historical effort to relate Christian faith to the problems of our present milieu; (2) in the context of the overall life of the contemporary church; and (3) in order to engage in dialogue about personal, social, and political responsibility with the Church and the world. The student's overarching goal should be to gain an integral overview of CST in order to effectively collaborate with ecclesial and civil institutions in furtherance of justice and peace in our present pluralistic world.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will

- ❖ Appreciate the complexity of the Roman Catholic Church's response(s) to some of the more pressing socio-political and economic issues of our time in light of a historical analysis of the basic insights of CST;
- ❖ Articulate and operationalize the basic ethical principles of *CST* to analyze a perplexing social issue of contemporary import in order to offer possible ways of addressing it; and
- Develop a pastoral attitude, marked by social and political responsibility, which is informed and guided by the basic principles of CST.

Required Texts:

I. Encyclicals / Church documents

- ✓ Pope Leo XIII, Rerum Novarum (Encyclical Letter, 1891).
- ✓ Pope Pius XI, *Quadragesimo Anno* (Encyclical Letter, 1931).
- ✓ Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra* (Encyclical Letter, 1961).
- ✓ -----, *Pacem in Terris* (Encyclical Letter, 1963).

- ✓ Second Vatican Council, Gaudium et Spes (1965).
- ✓ Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio* (Encyclical Letter, 1967).
- ✓ -----, Octagesima Adveniens (Encyclical Letter, 1971).
- ✓ Synod of Bishops, *Iustitia in Mundo* (1971)
- ✓ Pope John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens* (Encyclical Letter, 1981).
- ✓ USCCB, The Challenge of Peace (1983)
- ✓ -----, Economic Justice for All (1986)
- ✓ Pope John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (Encyclical Letter, 1987).
- ✓ -----, Centesimus Annus (Encyclical Letter, 1991).
- ✓ Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in veritate (Encyclical Letter, 2009).
- ✓ Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei* (Encyclical Letter, 2013).

texts All magisterial noted in this syllabus can be found at: http://www.cctwincities.org/CatholicSocialTeachingMajorDocuments

II. Books

- ✓ Himes, Kenneth R., ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries & Interpretations [MCST] (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2005).
- ✓ Massaro, Thomas, Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action, 2nd ed. (Plymouth, UK: Rowan & Littlefield, 2012).
- ✓ Mich, Marvin L. Krier, The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2011).

All other required readings (preceded by an asterisk * in the syllabus) are available on-line or can be found in Pius V library.

Recommended Texts:

- ✓ Barrera, Albino, Modern Catholic Social Documents and Political Economy (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2001).
- ✓ Burghardt, Waltert J., *Justice: A Global Adventure* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books,
- ✓ Himes, Kenneth R., Responses to 101 Questions on Catholic Social Teaching (New York: Paulist Press, 2001).
- ✓ DeBerri, Edward P., et. al., Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret, [OBKS] 4th ed. (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2003).
- ✓ MacCarthy, David Matzko, The Heart of Catholic Social Teaching: Its Origins and Contemporary Significance (Grand Rapids, MI.: Brazos Press, 2009).
- ✓ Merkle, Judith A., From the Heart of the Church: The Catholic Social Tradition (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2004).
- ✓ Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church [Compendium] (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2005).