Catholic social teaching has been part of the historical unfolding of Christianity through the centuries as the Church responded to the needs of the human community. An explanation of the philosophical notion of natural law and the biblical roots of the Christian tradition’s understanding of the nature of the human person, their fulfillment, the formation and role of conscience in moral decision making, and the attainment of common good is an essential element in the foundation of Catholic social teaching. This ancient Aristotelian philosophical principle of the common good is foundational for Catholic social teaching. In 1891, the Catholic Church began to formalize a conceptual framework for social concerns through the publication of a papal encyclical, the *Condition of Labor*. Throughout the last century, the Church has responded to social, economic and political events throughout the world by addressing in a normative framework such concepts as solidarity, the common good, a just wage, human rights, private property, a free market economy, subsidiarity, the preferential option for the poor, and the dignity of human work.

The class format will be discussion of distributed materials in seminar sessions. You will have five brief essay quizzes on the material of the week following the class discussion. You will be required to submit a paper at the end of the seminar on an approved topic related to course material and provide a 1000 word abstract for others in the class with an annotated bibliography.

Texts of most encyclicals can be obtained at:
http://www.osjspm.org/social_teaching_documents.aspx

An Excellent Bibliography on Catholic Legal Education:
http://www.law.cua.edu/bibliography/catholic.pdf

To print a paper copy of the syllabus below,
http://www67.homepage.villanova.edu/barbara.wall/Syllabus-S07.pdf

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January 10  The Common Good and Christian Ethics

*Guest: Professor Michael Moreland*

- David Hollenbach, S.J., *The Common Good and Christian Ethics* – Ch. 1 & 3
- *Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of the Working Class)* – Leo XIII (1891)
- *Modern Catholic Social Teaching (MCST)* – Part I, Ch. 5

January 17  Principles of Catholic Social Teaching – A Just Social Order

- *Quadragesimo Anno (The Reconstruction of the Social Order)* – Pius XI (1931)
- *Modern Catholic Social Teaching (MCST)* – Part I, Ch. 2, 3 & 6
January 24  Principles of Catholic Social Teaching – A Just Social Order  (Continued)

January 31  Principles of Catholic Social Teaching – A Just Social Order  (Continued)

- *Justice in the World* – Synod of Bishops (1971)
- *MCST* – Part I, Ch. 14

February 7  Caring for the Earth

- *What’s Happening to Our Beautiful Land* – Catholic Bishops of the Philippines (1988)

**Encyclical References**

*Rerum Novarum* (11-12; 57)
*Gaudium et Spes* (9; 12; 57; 63)
*Mater et Magistra* (189)
*Centesimus Annus* (37-38)

Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (106-108)

**Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed**, Jared Diamond, Ch. 1 (handout)

**Legal References**
- Endangered Species Act
- Clean Water Act
- Law of the Sea
- Declaration on Human Rights and the Environment (United Nations, 1994)

Mark Wallace’s Religion and Ecology Links:
http://www.swarthmore.edu/humanities/mwallac1/mark.links.html
(Dr. Wallace is Chair of the Religion Department, Swarthmore College)

**Recommended Reading**


Sean McDonagh, SSC, *To Care for the Earth: A Call to a New Theology*, (Santa Fe, NM: Bear and Company Books, 1987).


**February 14  Human Rights in Catholic Social Teaching**

- Fundamental human rights and the economic, political, legal and social structures to achieve these rights
- *Quadragesimo Anno (The Reconstruction of the Social Order)* – Pius XI (1931)
- *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)* – John XXIII (1963)

Also see:
- *The Church and Human Rights* – Vatican’s Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace (1975)

**Recommended Reading**


February 21  **Human Rights in Catholic Social Teaching** (Continued)

*Guest: Professor Beth Lyon*

- The United States Constitution and human rights: the rights of citizens and persons. The Due Process Clauses, the Privileges and Immunities Clause, economic rights and the Commerce Clause
- State Constitutional protections of human rights
- Federal legislative responses to human rights guarantees; labor laws, workplace regulation, civil rights, prohibition on status discrimination, sex discrimination, age discrimination, discrimination against persons with disabilities, affirmative action
- Regional supra national law and human rights: the European Economic Community, the Organization of American States
- International human rights regimes: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**Web Resources**

- Human Rights USA Resource Center - http://www.hrusa.org/

February 28  **Economic Justice**

- *Solicitude Rei Socialis (The Social Concern of the Church)* – John Paul II (1987)
- *The Common Good and The Catholic Church’s Social Tradition* – Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (1996)
- *MCST* – Ch. 17 & Ch. 19

- Tax structures and justice, the goal of distributive justice
- United States tax theory and progressive taxation; tax as redistribution; tax as an instrument of political policy; tax structures and tax avoidance; extraterritorial taxation and international policy.
- Regional tax structures
- Tax treaty as an instrument of national or international policy
- The planned economy and the free economy and the regulated economy, political structures and social goals

**Recommended Reading**


See the following:
- Ernest Burtell, CSC, "Private Goods as an Effective Moral Norm for the United States: Another Look at Economics and Ethics in Catholic Social Teaching"
- Gerald F. Cavanaugh, SJ, "The Common Good as Effective Moral Norm for the U.S."
- Charles K. Wilber, "Economic Theory and the Common Good."
- David Vogel, "The International Economy and the Common Good."

**March 14 Christian Faith and Economic Justice**

- *Populorum Progresio (The Development of Peoples)* – Paul VI (1967)
- *MCST* – Ch. 12
- *Gaudium et spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)* – (1965)

**March 21 Human Work**

- *MCST* – Ch. 16

**March 28 Catholic Social Teaching and Women**

- *Pastoral on Women* – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- *Rerum Novarum and Its Critics on Social and Sexual Hierarchies*
- *Women and Children Last: The Social and Economic Consequences of Divorce Law Reforms*
  - Feminization of Poverty
  - The Catholic Community and women: feminist theology
  - The Church and women
  - United States – differentiation and discrimination on the basis of sex, Title IX, Title VII
  - Supra national regimes and the rights of women: The European Economic Community
  - International human rights: the United Nations, Declarations, international human rights regimes and women
  - Affirmative Action Public Policies
- Social Security reform for all women
- Equal Pay for Equal Work

Recommended Reading


April 4  War and Peace

- *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)* – John XXIII (1963)
- *MCST* – Ch. 9
- *MCST* – Ch. 20

April 11  Concerns of the Developing World

- *Evangelization in Modern Day Asia* – First Planning Assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conference (1974)
  - International norms and equality of status; economic, political, religious, and social recognition of right

Recommended Reading


See the following:
- Marcos McGrath, "The Impact of Gadium et Spes, Medellin, Puebla and Pastoral Creativity"
- Juan Carlos Scannone, "Evangelization of Culture, Liberation, and Popular Culture: The New Theological Pastoral Synthesis in Latin America."
- Bryan J. Hehir, "The Peace Pastoral and Global Mission: Development Beyond Vatican II.


April 18 Wrap Up