

IPS 610
FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Wednesdays 4:15 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.

Instructor: William Droel

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Purpose of the Course

This course explores the philosophical and theological foundations for social justice with a particular emphasis on Catholic social thought.

On the basis of several sources a description of social justice will be discussed. Students will compare and contrast the description with trends in the United States and with their own experience.

Required Texts

Elsbernd, Sr. Mary and Reimund Bieringer. *When Love Is Not Enough*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2002.

Booklets and handouts as supplied by the teacher.

Assignments and Grading

- Each student will participate in classroom discussion.
- Each student will submit four *Class Preview* papers—at least two before October 13, 2010. Each paper, about one-page in length, will outline the topic of the day, including a summary of the day's reading, perhaps some starter questions, and optimally some original research on the day's topic.
- Each student will be a presenter for one class. The 20-minute presentation on the topic of the day could include starter questions, a so-called Power Point presentation, a few references on the topic, original research and more. The presenting student will be given a student aide for this assignment—a classmate.
- Each student will, no later 6:30 P.M. on December 1, 2010, will submit a 10-page, double-spaced term paper on a current social justice topic—plus a cover page and bibliography. The paper will conform to proper graduate-level research writing. The paper, while showing the application of ideas from the course, could take the form of a case study (see textbook), particularly one that draws upon the student's own experience. The teacher will periodically request drafts of this assignment.

Class participation + four preview papers = 40%
Presentation to the class = 20%
Term paper = 40%

Final grade = A for 91+
B for 80 to 90
C for 70 to 79
D for below 70
F for below 65

Consult IPS guidelines for specific grading policies and standards.
All assignments must conform to proper English use and must meet graduate level standards.

Schedule

September 1, 2010
Introductions
Catholic approach to social justice:
Social justice as a virtue
Fr. William Ferree
Alasdair MacIntyre
Read Ferree pamphlet; read
Elsbernd pgs. 129-134; read
handouts

September 8, 2010
Catholic approach to social justice:
Insiders and outsiders

September 15, 2010
Catholic approach to social justice:
What's an encyclical?
Read Elsbernd chapter 4

September 22, 2010
U.S. approach to justice:
Classical Liberalism
J.S. Mill
Read handouts

September 29, 2010
U.S. approach to justice:
Utilitarianism
Distributive justice
John Rawls
Read Elsbernd pgs. 121-125

October 6, 2010
U.S. approach to justice:
Democrats, Republicans and Tea Party
Robert Nozick
Ayn Rynd
Read Elsbernd pgs. 125-129; read
handouts

October 13, 2010
Scriptural approach to justice:
Main themes in the Tanakh
Christian Incarnation
Read Elsbernd chapter 3

October 20, 2010
Scriptural approach to justice:
Liberation theology and fundamentalism
Read Elsbernd pgs. 139-142; read
handouts

October 27, 2010

Catholic approach to social justice:

Complimentary social principles,
subsidiarity, the dignity of work,
participation

Michael Walzer

Read Elsbernd pgs. 135-139, plus
chapter 6, plus chapter 7

November 3, 2010

Catholic approach to social justice:

The sacramental imagination

November 10, 2010

U.S. approach to justice:

Justice in the global village

Read handouts

November 17, 2010

U.S. approach to justice:

Protestant experience, social gospel,
evangelical expressions

Reinhold Niebuhr

Read Elsbernd pgs. 116-121

November 22, 2010

no school

December 1, 2010

Catholic approach to social justice:

The Chicago experience

Observe, Judge, Act

December 8, 2010

course summary and
party

This syllabus can be modified at the discretion of the teacher.