

**PSCI 15 / REL 15
Catholic Political Economy
Winter Study 2010**

Professor Darel E. Paul
Schapiro 339
597-2327
dpaul@williams.edu

PSCI 15 / REL 15
North Academic Bldg 240
MTWR 10am-noon (or thereabouts)

Office Hrs.: by appointment

Course Description

The Catholic Church has from her beginning thought and taught on social, political and economic relations (e.g. St. Paul's *Epistle to Philemon*). Over the last century or so, however, she has devoted particular attention to the problems of modern economies – inequality, class conflict, private property, the profit motive, the welfare state, consumerism, and human freedom to name just a few – and wrestled with many foundational questions of modern economic life: What is the proper relationship between the social classes? What are the merits and flaws of socialism? Of capitalism? Is love a relevant concept in political and economic analysis? What is an economy for?

This course involves a thoughtful engagement with one small portion of the larger body of thought known as 'Catholic social teaching,' namely that emphasizing the themes of political economy. Our primary texts will be the papal encyclicals *Rerum novarum* (1891), *Quadragesimo anno* (1931), *Mater et magistra* (1961), *Laborem exercens* (1981) and *Centesimus annus* (1991), as well as commentaries on the documents themselves and their social impact.

Readings

This course has two readings sources for the term:

1. David J. O'Brien and Thomas A. Shannon, eds., Catholic Social Thought: The Documentary Heritage. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992.
2. Course readings.

The book should be purchased through your favorite on-line retailer – *it is NOT available at Water Street Books*. Course readings will be provided to you as soon as possible. It will also be helpful to have a Bible on hand, both in class and while doing the readings. Any translation is fine.

Course requirements and grades

Regular attendance and thoughtful contributions to discussion are essential – if these are absent, we are in for a loooong January. A final 10-page paper on a topic of student choice related to the course is due on January 28 in class.

Your grade in this course will be based on the following formula: class participation (30%); final paper (70%).

Course Calendar

Jan. 4 AN INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

- Frederic L. Pryor, "The Roman Catholic Church and the economic system: A review essay," Journal of Comparative Economics 17 (1993), pp. 129-150.

Jan. 5 CATHOLIC POLITICAL ECONOMY AND MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS

- Albino Barrera, Modern Catholic Social Documents and Political Economy. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2001, pp. 121-162.

Jan. 6 NATURAL LAW

- John Goyette et al., eds., St. Thomas Aquinas and the Natural Law Tradition: Contemporary Perspectives. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2004, pp. 3-39.

Jan. 7 HUMAN RIGHTS

- Jacques Maritain, Man and the State. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951, pp. 80-84, 95-107.
- Ernest L. Fortin, "Sacred and inviolable: *Rerum novarum* and natural rights," in Human Rights, Virtue and the Common Good: Untimely Meditations on Religion and Politics. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1996, pp. 191-222.

Jan. 11 RERUM NOVARUM – TEXT

- O'Brien and Shannon, pp. 12-39

Jan. 12 RERUM NOVARUM – COMMENTARY

- Thomas A. Shannon, "Commentary on *Rerum novarum (The Condition of Labor)*," in Kenneth R. Himes, ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2005, pp. 127-150.
- Mary E. Hobgood, Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Theory: Paradigms in Conflict. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991, pp. 106-112.

Jan. 13 QUADRAGESIMO ANNO – TEXT

- O'Brien and Shannon, pp. 40-79.

Jan. 14 QUADRAGESIMO ANNO – COMMENTARY

- Christine Firer Hinze, “Commentary on *Quadragesimo anno (After Forty Years)*,” in Kenneth R. Himes, ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2005, pp. 151-155, 167-174.
- Thomas C. Kohler, “Quadragesimo Anno,” in George Weigel and Robert Royal, eds., A Century of Catholic Social Thought. Washington, DC: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1991, pp. 27-43.
- Mary E. Hobgood, Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Theory: Paradigms in Conflict. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991, pp. 112-123.

Jan. 18 MATER ET MAGISTRA – TEXT

- O’Brien and Shannon, pp. 82-128.

Jan. 19 MATER ET MAGISTRA – COMMENTARY

- Marvin L. Mich, “Commentary on *Mater et magistra (Christianity and Social Progress)*,” in Kenneth R. Himes, ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2005, pp.191-98, 205-216.
- Robert A. Sirico, “Mater et Magistra,” in in George Weigel and Robert Royal, eds., A Century of Catholic Social Thought. Washington, DC: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1991, pp. 45-59.
- Mary E. Hobgood, Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Theory: Paradigms in Conflict. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991, pp. 132-142.

Jan. 20 LABOREM EXERCENS – TEXT

- O’Brien and Shannon, pp. 350-392.

Jan. 21 LABOREM EXERCENS – COMMENTARY

- Marvin L. Mich, “Commentary on *Mater et magistra (Christianity and Social Progress)*,” in Kenneth R. Himes, ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2005, pp.191-98, 205-16.
- Robert A. Sirico, “Mager et Magistra,” in in George Weigel and Robert Royal, eds., A Century of Catholic Social Thought. Washington, DC: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1991, pp. 45-59.
- Mary E. Hobgood, Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Theory: Paradigms in Conflict. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991, pp. 132-42.

Jan. 25 LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- Gustavo Gutiérrez, A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988 [1973], pp. 5-12.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Instruction on Certain Aspects of the 'Theology of Liberation'*, 1984.
- Jon Sobrino, Jesus the Liberator: A Historical-Theological Reading of Jesus of Nazareth. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993, pp. 11-36.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Notification on the Works of Fr. Jon Sobrino, SJ*, 2006: Introduction, Part I and Conclusion

Jan. 26 CENTESIMUS ANNUS – TEXT

- O'Brien and Shannon, pp. 437-488.

Jan. 27 CENTESIMUS ANNUS – COMMENTARY

- Daniel Finn, "Commentary on *Centesimus annus (On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum)*," in Kenneth R. Himes, ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2005, pp.436-442, 455-466.
- John O'Sullivan, ed., "The Pope, liberty and capitalism," National Review, vol. 43 no. 11, Special supplement (1991), S1-S16

Jan. 28 STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS