

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Term: **Spring 2010**  
Instructor: Rev. Joseph (Dean) Brackley, S.J.  
Course #: THEO 2410  
Sections: 101/901 (Majors/Honors)  
Course Title: **Christian Faith in Cultural Contexts**  
Course Sub-Title: **Liberation Theology and Catholic Social Teaching: A Latin American Perspective**

Description:

The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing an understanding of Christian faith and a coherent practice in response to an unjust world. To do so, we will study three resources which are offered from a Latin American perspective (with particular attention to the experience of Christians in El Salvador): 1) Latin American liberation theology; 2) official Catholic Social Teaching; and 3) a spirituality of solidarity.

Required texts:

- Bible, selections. Any accurate, fairly literal translation: NRSV, JB, NAB, etc.
- Medellín Documents, "Justice," "Peace", "Poverty of the Church"
- Documents of Catholic Social Teaching. Selections.
- Pedro Arrupe, S. J. "Marxist Analysis by Christians" (December 8, 1980) (available electronically)
- Leonardo Boff and Clodovis Boff, *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1987, ch. 1, 3 and 5.
- Leonardo Boff, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1999, Ch. 5, "Liberation Theology and Ecology."
- Ignacio Ellacuría, "Utopia and Prophecy in Latin America," in *Mysterium Liberationis: Fundamental Concepts of Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993, pp. 289-328.
- Ana Ma. Tepedino and Margarida Ribeiro Brandao, "Women and the Theology of Liberation," in *Mysterium Liberationis*, pp. 221-31.
- Jesuit Provincials of Latin America, "Neo-Liberalism in Latin America" in *Promotio Justitiae* (Jesuit Social Secretariat, Rome) 67 (May 1997), pp. 43-60.
- Ivan Petrella. *The Future of Liberation Theology: An Argument and a Manifesto*. London: SCM Press, 2006.
- Oscar Romero, "The Political Dimension of the Faith from the Perspective of the Option for the Poor" (University of Louvain, February 2, 1980) (available on web)
- Nancy Pineda-Madrid, "Latinas Writing Theology at the Threshold of the Twenty-First Century," in *Feminist Theologies: Legacy and Prospect*, Rosemary Radford Reuther, ed. Fortress Press, 2007.
- Scott Wright. *Oscar Romero and the Communion of Saints*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 2010.

## Department of Theology

---

### Optional texts:

#### **Recommended (on reserve):**

- María Pilar Aquino. *Our Cry for Freedom* Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1993.
- Phillip Berryman. *Liberation Theology*. New York: Pantheon, 1987.
- Dean Brackley. *Divine Revolution: Salvation and Liberation in Catholic Thought*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- D. Brackley, *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola*. New York: Crossroad, 2004.
- D. Brackley and T. Schubeck, "Moral Theology in Latin America," *Theological Studies* 64 (Mar. 2002), pp. 123-60.
- José Comblin. *Called to Freedom: The Changing Context of Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1998.
- Charles E. Curran. *Catholic Social Teaching 1891-Present: Historical, Theological and Ethical Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2002.
- Donal Dorr. *Option for the Poor: A Hundred Years of Vatican Social Teaching*, rev. ed. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1992.
- I. Ellacuría and J. Sobrino, *Mysterium Liberationis: Fundamental Concepts of Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1993.
- Gustavo Gutiérrez. *A Theology of Liberation*, rev. edn. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1991.
- Alfred Hennelly. *Liberation Theology: A Documentary History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1989.
- Kenneth R. Himes, ed. *Modern Catholic Social Teaching: Commentaries and Interpretations*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown Univ. Press, 2004.
- Arthur McGovern. *Liberation Theology and Its Critics: Towards an Assessment*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1989.
- Christian Smith. *The Emergence of Liberation Theology: Radical Religion and Social Movement Theory*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1991.