

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Term: **Spring 2010**  
Instructor: Fr. Bryan Massingale  
Course #: THEO 4490/5490  
Section: 101/101  
Course Title: **Special Topics in Moral Theology**  
Course Sub-Title: **Malcolm, Martin, Baldwin, and the Church**

Description:

Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and James Baldwin are seminal figures of the American Civil Rights movement. Though contemporaries united in a common cause for justice, they espoused different--and at times, conflicting--approaches to its realization. This course will engage the social ethics and religious faith of these persons, both as individuals and in relation to each other. We will examine the challenges each posed both to Christian faith and to U.S. society--especially their critiques of American understandings of justice; how each understood the relevance of religious faith to the struggle for justice; and the response of the Catholic church to these men, the movement they represented, and the enduring reality of racial injustice. We also will discern the lasting significance of their social thought for believers facing the continuing task of realizing justice in American society.

Required texts:

- 1) *The Autobiography of Malcolm X (as told to Alex Haley)*. Ballentine Books. ISBN: 0-345-37671-4.
- 2) George Breitman (editor). *Malcolm X Speaks: Selected Speeches and Statements*. Grove Weidenfeld. ISBN: 0-8021-323-8.
- 3) James M. Washington (editor). *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Harper and Row. ISBN: 0-06-250931-4. (paperback acceptable).
- 4) James Baldwin. *The Fire Next Time*. Vintage International. ISBN: 0-679-74472-X
- 5) James Baldwin. *Going to Meet the Man*. Vintage International. ISBN: 0-679-76179-9.

Optional texts:

- 1) James H. Cone. *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare*. Orbis Books. ISBN: 0-88344-721-5 (paperback acceptable)—highly recommended!
- 2) Louis A. DeCaro, Jr. *Malcolm and the Cross: The Nation of Islam, Malcolm X, and Christianity*. New York University Press. ISBN: 0-8147-1932-5.

## Department of Theology

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- 3) Vincent Harding. *Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero*. Orbis Books. ISBN: 978-1-57075-736-5.
- 4) Luther D. Ivory. *Toward a Theology of Radical Involvement: The Theological Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Abingdon Press. ISBN: 0-687-01453-0
- 5) Clarence E. Hardy III. *James Baldwin's God*. University of Tennessee Press. ISBN: 1-57233-230-1
- 6) James Baldwin, *The Price of the Ticket: Collected Nonfiction 1948-1950* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1985).