

Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2009
Instructor: Abraham B. Fisher
Course #: THEO 2400
Section: 102
Course Title: **Theology of Christian Discipleship**

Description:

In the Gospel of John, Jesus succinctly summarizes the challenge of discipleship, saying: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15). In the synoptic Gospels (Matt 22, Mark 12, Luke 10) he further clarifies that to keep the commandments is to do two things: Love God with one's whole self, and love one's neighbor as oneself. This class is structured around these two great commands of discipleship.

Part one of the course focuses on the love of neighbor, as exemplified in the principles and call of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). A close reading of *The Heart of Catholic Social Teaching*, and some supplemental readings from recent encyclicals will guide us in an exploration of the theological sources and principles of CST from various perspectives: biblical, liturgical, historical, etc.

In part two attention focuses on the first great commandment, love of God, as we explore the theological principles of moral decision making. This section of the course is structured around two identifiable moments in the moral decision making process: first, discerning what is right in a given situation, that is, what course of action most nearly conforms to the will of Christ for his disciples; and second, the decision to follow what has been identified as the right course of action. In *Making Disciples*, Timothy O'Connell draws on recent research in the social sciences to help us understand and progress in the process of achieving moral virtue.

Required texts:

- David M. McCarthy, ed., *The Heart of Catholic Social Teaching*
- Timothy O'Connell, *Making Disciples*
- A Study Bible, including Apocrypha, preferably New American Bible (NAB) or New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Especially recommended is the New Oxford Annotated edition of the New Revised Standard Version.
- Some additional readings available on the web, via Electronic Reserves, or D2L.