

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2009**
Instructor: Bryan N. Massingale
Course #: THEO 4400
Section: 101
Course Title: **Christian Faith and Justice**

Description:

This course is an exploration of social ethics from the perspective of Christian Faith. Its main questions are: "What does faith have to do with the pursuit of justice in society?" and "What contribution(s) does religious faith offer to social reflection and action for justice?" We will examine how Christian believers have responded to such questions, beginning with the Scriptures, and continuing through the Christian tradition. Particular (but not exclusive) attention will be given to the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching. Current developments in key social issues and movements (e.g., racism, capital punishment, sexism, environmental justice, terrorism and the use of torture) are addressed.

Required texts:

- Fred Kammer, *Doing Faithjustice: An Introduction to Catholic Social Thought*, Revised Edition. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2004.
- Thomas Massaro, *Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action*. Franklin, WI: Sheed and Ward, 2000.
- Benedict XVI, *Caritias in Veritate* (encyclical on social justice)
- A work on liberation theology (yet to be determined)
- Catholic Charities USA, *Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good*. 2008
- Other works to be determined.

Optional texts:

- None at this time.