2014

311-02 Faith and Justice

Alice Mack

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INSTRUCTOR: Alice Haven Mack  
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Mail location: Hinkle Hall #123/Theology Dept.  
Office hours: by appointment  

Prerequisite: Theology 111, Phil 100  

Course Description: Explore the relationship between Christian faith and social justice viewed in Christian tradition and recent thought and documents of the Catholic Church. This course fulfills the Ethics Religion & Society (E/RS) 4th course elective.  

Course Objectives:  
1. To be able to explain and apply the major principles of Catholic Christian social justice as rooted in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures as developed in the Catholic tradition.  
2. To become familiar with some of the major social issues: children’s issues, poverty, war, modern day slavery, ecological destruction, etc. (This objective is in keeping with the E/RS mission.)  
3. To make use of the tools of social analysis to develop skills in critical observation and judgment, theological reflection and planning solutions.  
4. To be empowered to develop and employ to seek social justice and peace in practical ways at work, home, school, church and local community.  
5. To discover new personal and/or family values, habits, behaviors, forms of prayer, and relationship with God, as well as consider various career or volunteer choices that may develop while studying this material.  

Required Textbooks  
4. Any readable Bible (New American version is recommended). 
   The New American Bible or The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha are recommended.  
5. Other required handouts will be distributed in class, on Canvas, or will be available through electronic reserve in the library next to Alter Hall or on the XU portal.  
The password for electronic reserve is “Solidarity”.  

Teaching Methodology: Lecture, small and large group discussions, videos, written assignments, quizzes, exams, guest speakers, semester project.  

Grade Scale: A=94-100; A-=92-93; B+=90-91; B=87-89; B-=84-86; C+=82-83; C=79-81; C-=76-78;  
D+=74-75; D=71-73; D-=68-70; F=67 and below  
(Please see attached sheet “Theology Dept. Grading Guidelines” for specific grading criteria, particularly for participation and writing assignments.)
Method of Evaluation/Testing Criteria and Value:
450 points  Quizzes/written homework assignments  
200 points  Exam #1  
200 points  Exam #2  
150 points  Attendance and class participation  
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1000 points  

Attendance Policy:  Attendance at all class sessions is required and student must be present to obtain attendance points. Students are expected to arrive on time and remain the entire class. Absences do not excuse a student from the knowledge about the material discussed or about any announcements or syllabus changes. Homework is expected to be turned in on time unless arrangements have been made with instructor prior to due date. No assignment, paper, or quiz/test will be accepted late without penalty.

Expectations and Policies:
1. Attendance:  See above policy.
2. Class participation:  Active participation is encouraged.
3. Assignments:  It is recommended to have a 3-ring binder. You are expected to read all assignment materials carefully and critically. Be prepared to answer questions and participate in discussion in class. Written assignments and papers should be typed, double-spaced and stapled together. Include page numbers. Assignments are expected on time. Please proofread all papers, checking for grammar and spelling, as that will influence your grade. NOTE: You are not graded on your opinion, but how well you try to understand and work with the class material and on the effort you further demonstrate in developing your insights.
ADDITIONAL NOTE: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. It is a very serious violation of academic honesty. Please consult the section on “Academic Honesty” in the University catalog for further details.
4. Quizzes:  Quizzes on assigned readings will occur throughout the semester. If you are late for a class and the quiz is in progress, you must remain outside the classroom until the class completes the quiz.
5. Exams:  These exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short essay style questions.
6. Each student is expected to visit the Freedom Center. Details to follow.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact me to discuss your specific needs. Please also contact the Learning Assistance Center at 513-7453280 on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, to coordinate reasonable accommodations.