THEO 266 - A1E: Church and Global Cultures
(Inclusion and Belonging)
John Felice Rome Center
2020 Summer Session B Online (6 Weeks)
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Office Hours: By appointment

Please note: this is an Engaged Learning course, approved for the Service-Learning category, satisfying the Loyola University Chicago Engaged Learning requirement. All students must complete the service-learning experience and related assignments in order to successfully pass this course.

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to ways in which the Christian churches, and primarily the Roman Catholic Church, understand and enact their identity in relation to the secular world of culture, economics, and politics, both nationally and globally.

This course will zoom in on themes of inclusion and belonging, exploring wider multicultural, diversity and accessibility discourses, and how they relate to the church. Through its service learning component, the course will zoom in on disability culture - and the church's engagement with it - as an area in which inclusive practices can be learned through reflection and individual/community engagement.

This course is designed to include four main sections:

• A theological analysis of the nature of the Church and its relationship to the world, with a particular focus on its approach towards the oppressed and marginalized. During this section we will reflect on the models of the church proposed by Avery Dulles, SJ, and explore the tenants of Catholic social teaching.
• An interdisciplinary exploration of the concept of culture and multiculturalism. Since cultures are constructed by various social elements (politics, economics, etc.), this interdisciplinary contextualization can better inform our theological inquiry.
• A reflection on the ways of encountering others in the midst of our shared humanity and cultural differences.
• A service learning component, which asks students to engage with disability culture via virtual means and create a LearningPortfolio web-page connected to this experience.

The course syllabus is subject to change and changes will be announced accordingly to the class.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the course students should be able to:

• Analyze and interpret contrasting Christian understandings of the notion of original sin.
• Demonstrate knowledge, with attention to historical development, of the central texts, beliefs, ethical understandings, and practices of at least one religious tradition.
• Critically reflect on different cultural realities and the Church’s engagement with them.
• Critically reflect on disability culture, church engagement with it and the values of encounter and transformation.

**Required Text / Materials**
Assigned readings and other assigned material is posted or linked to in Sakai’s Resources page.

**Attendance Policy**
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, this course adheres to the JFRC's absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student. Participation and involvement in every class session is mandatory. Absence due to sickness or injury needs to be corroborated by a doctor’s note. As this is an online class, students who fail to demonstrate participation in one class session will be considered absent for that session. Three (3) absences will result in an automatic failure, “F”. Travel does not constitute reason to miss class.

**Assessment Components**
- Participation 20%
- “Exploration in Church and Global Cultures” Presentation 20%
- “Exploration in Church and Global Cultures” Paper 30%
- Service Learning 30%

Please find below a description of all the assessment components:

- Your active participation (opinions, feedback, comments, etc.) is essential in a class like this one. One important way of engaging in theological reflection is to begin from life experience to then search for a deeper/higher level of meaning. Your voice is important! Active class participation includes:
  o Each Monday, by 11.59 pm Chicago time, please post in Sakai’s forum for that week. Below, in the calendar, you will find more on this. For example, for session 4 (“Inclusion, Belonging and Reconciliation”) on Monday, July 20th, you are asked to post an external resource related to the session topic of the week (this can be an article, a photo, a video, a poem, etc.) and two questions for discussion that emerge from the resource. In this case, I may want to post a link to an article or video on how a church community or church leader has spoken on behalf of an immigrant group and promoted inclusion, briefly summarizing it and also posting two questions for class discussion that emerge from the article or video. I will also write another post as a reply to a fellow classmate's questions for discussion.
  o Good attendance.

- At the end of the course, on August 3rd (by 11.59 pm Chicago time), students will submit their “Exploration in Church and Global Cultures,” consisting of a presentation and a paper:
  o Presentation. Each student’s presentation will share about a specific culture of choice and an overview of the relationship of the Church with that particular culture, including the level of its engagement with it. Each presentation, to be posted on Sakai’s forum section, should last 8-10 minutes and include two questions for discussion. The presentation should be primarily based on external research. Further instructions on the presentation will be shared with the class ahead of time.
Paper. This final paper is the “written version” of the presentation. It should introduce a culture, how the Church has engaged with it and include critical insights on that. The paper should include at least 3 external references and at least 4 references from class readings/materials, showing integration of course concepts with cultural engagement application. Further instructions on the paper will be shared with the class ahead of time. This paper, to be submitted via Sakai’s Assignments section, should be 10-15 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-pt font, 1-inch margins, APA citations.

- The Service Learning component of the course invites students to encounter disability culture and how the church engages with it. You are asked to create an online LearningPortfolio, a website (created using TaskStream, www.wix.com or any platform you wish) that should contain 4 pages:

  1) A Bio page with info about yourself and your interests.
  2) A Reflections page, a "blog" where you include two Service Learning reflections, each at least 4 paragraphs long. Reflections should revolve around encountering disability and church’s engagement with it. How can this encounter happen? You are free to choose how to do so! You may want to watch video interviews and read articles related to disability and the church. You may want to attend a virtual disability event and think theologically about it. You may want to learn about disability work happening in your local areas, and how this connects to course material. Throughout this, you are asked to write at least two reflections total, addressing the following: What are you learning about yourself and others through the Service Learning encounter/experience? Are you noticing any growth/transformation within you through the Service Learning experience? How does your experience with Service Learning connect with class material/discussion?
  3) A Goals page, where you include at least one personal goal that you have for the service learning experience and also include the following service learning course objective: “Critically reflect on disability culture, church engagement with it and the values of encounter and transformation”
  4) A Multimedia page, where you include at least eight media resources related to disability – these can include media links to other organizations you have learned about, photos/videos, etc. – and each resource should have a description or caption explaining why you have chosen that resource.

Please submit the link to your Learning Portfolio in the “Service Learning: Online LearningPortfolio” Sakai forum folder by 8/7, 11:59 pm Chicago time.
Academic Honesty
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Course Schedule
Please note: each week, you may access video lectures and the forums by clicking on the Lesson for the week in Sakai's Lessons folder.

Session 1 (June 29): Introduction to Course & Service Learning + Models of the Church
Readings due by today:
- Dulles, A. (2013). The Use of Models in Ecclesiology (Chapter I), Models of the Church.
Please watch this week's video lecture.
Please reply to Sakai’s forum prompt for this week.

Session 2 (July 6): Tenants of Catholic Social Teaching
Readings due by today:
- Reginald, A. (2017). The Catholic Church’s perspective of human dignity as the basis of dialogue with the secular world.
Please watch this week's video lecture.
Please post, in Sakai's forum for this week, an external resource (with two questions for discussions) related to one or more of the tenants of Catholic social teaching. In addition, please reply to someone else’s questions for discussion.

Session 3 (July 13): Identity, Multiculturalism and Diversity
Readings due by today:
Please watch this week's video lecture.
Continued on next page
Please post, in Sakai’s forum for this week, an external resource (with two questions for discussions) related to one or more aspects of multiculturalism/being a multicultural society. In addition, please reply to someone else’s questions for discussion.

Session 4 (July 20): **Inclusion, Belonging and Reconciliation**

Readings due by today:
- Francis. Homily of Pope Francis (7 April 2013).

Please watch:
- "Building Maison Shalom" by Marguerite Barankitse (TEDxWarwick, 2017)

Please post, in Sakai’s forum for this week, an external resource (with two questions for discussions) providing a real-life example of how a person or group (of any religious background) has lived out or promoted the message of inclusion and/or reconciliation. In addition, please reply to someone else’s questions for discussion.

Session 5 (July 27): **Examples of Inclusion and Cultural Engagement**

Readings due by today:

Please watch this week's video lecture.

Please reply to Sakai's forum prompt for this week.

Session 6 (August 3): **Explorations in Church and Global Cultures**

Please post, in Sakai’s forum for this week, your presentation (slides + audio) with two questions for discussion. In addition, please reply to someone else’s questions for discussions.

Please submit your paper on Sakai.

**Service Learning web-site:** Please submit the link to your Service Learning web-site/Learning Portfolio in Sakai’s “Service Learning: Online LearningPortfolio” forum folder by August 7th, 11:59 pm Chicago time.