

# Church History and Social Justice

Credit Hours – ½ for Church History and ½ for Social Justice

Mr. Gilbert Rios

Room # 301

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 3:30 to 4:15 Parent conference must be scheduled

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## TEXT

1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Title: The Church Our Story

Author: Janie Gustafson

Date Publication: 2006

Cost: \$30.00 if lost or damaged

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

Social Justice and Peace

Joseph Stoutzenberger

2006

\$30.00 if lost or damaged

## ADDITIONAL READINGS

Readings will depend on material being covered.

Other Book used for 1<sup>st</sup> Semester: the Catholic Church Story by Michael Pennock

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Binder or folder for keeping handouts and taking notes.
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens and pencils. No purple or pink ink.
- Markers or colored pencils for in-class activities
- Tabs-6

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first semester of this class will help you answer the questions, “what is Catholicism?” and “what is the Catholic Church?” in an intelligent and informed manner. By the end of the semester you will have a deeper understanding of what it means to be the body of Christ and how this affects your everyday choices and behaviors. You will also explore what your own identity as a Christian or Catholic Christian means to you.

The second semester of this class will help you answer the questions, “what is Catholic social teaching?” and “what are some of the social problems in 2007/2008?” By the end of the semester you should be familiar with some social problems and which Catholic teachings address these problems. You will be familiar with both the principles of Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action. You will also explore what you can do in your own life to live out Jesus’ teachings.

## COURSE CALENDAR

### **First Semester – Church History and Ecclesiology -- August 2007 to December 2008**

*Chapters 1 & 2 “What is Church” and “Church is Mystery”*

*Chapters 3 & 4 “The Developing Christian Community 30 – 200 and Heralding the Gospel 200 – 800*

*Chapters 5 Growth of an Institution – the Middle Ages*

*Chapter 6 Protest and Reform – Pilgrim Church in a time of Change*

- Chapter 7      *Sign to a Changing World – 1600 to 1900*
- Chapter 8      *20<sup>th</sup> Century Catholicism – A servant Church*
- Chapter 9      *American Catholicism Yesterday and today*

*The Church is Communion of Saints – who are the saints and Mary the mother of the Church p. 256 to 290*

## **Second Semester – Social Justice – January 2008 to May 2008**

### *Unit 1 – Tool Box for Social Justice*

This unit is the introductory unit. We will look at basic terms and concepts for the study of social justice. There will be heavy emphasis on the seven principles of the Catholic Church's social teaching.

### *Unit 2 – War and Peace*

In this unit we will look at conflict and conflict resolution. We will begin with personal conflict and conflict resolution through enhanced communication skills. We will move on to larger issues of conflict like war and peace. Students will understand the Catholic Church's teaching of just war and apply it to current events.

### *Unit 3 – Dignity of Life and Technology*

This unit will look at the proper use of science and technology in the context of Catholic teaching and morals. Students will apply Catholic values to uses of technology to determine if they fit with the Catholic principles of justice. We will also focus on environmental issues and fostering sustainable relationships with creation.

### *Unit 4 – Poverty*

This unit will look at world poverty with a focus on farming techniques and food distribution. We will also define and clarify concepts like lifestyle, minimum wage vs. a living wage, the causes of homelessness, and the reality of poverty in the United States.

### *Unit 5 – Human Dignity and Racism*

In this unit we will look at the realities of racism and prejudice in our own hearts, our community, and in the world. We will look at manifestations of prejudice through sexism, xenophobia, and racism. What does our religion say about discrimination and working to stop it?

**\*Schedule is tentative and subject to change depending upon the progress of the class.**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **CLASSROOM RULES**

There are 4 basic rules. These rules are in place to ensure a safe and productive learning environment. By following these rules, you will avoid conflicts during class time.

1. **Be respectful** to the teacher, fellow students, the things in the classroom, and to yourself. Treat others how you expect to be treated. This includes raising your hand during discussion. I encourage open discussion in this class; however open discussion is not possible when everyone is talking at the same time. In this class respect also includes NO PUTDOWNS. While I understand you might kid each other, we want to build positive energy.
2. **Be prepared for class.** This means you need to bring your notebook, journal, textbook, pen, pencil etc. everyday. It also means you should prepare by completing the daily reading or assignment. If you are continuously unprepared for class you are breaking a classroom rule and are subject to detention with me.
3. **Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings.** Students running through the door when the final bell rings will be considered tardy for class. We have very little time together as it is so **BE ON TIME FOR CLASS.**
4. **Follow directions and the Knight's Code.**

## **IF YOU CHOOSE TO BREAK A RULE**

First and Second time:	Verbal warning issued
Third time:	Lunch detention in my class.
Repeating offenses:	Parents contacted and referral written
Severe disruptions:	Students sent immediately to the office.

As a student at St. Augustine you are expected to uphold all rules stated in the student handbook; these rules will be in force at all times and the consequences are as stated in the handbook.

**Criteria for Written Work:** Students must write in their best English at all times. All written work must be done in complete sentences.

**HOMEWORK:** Homework assignments will be written on the board. You are responsible for checking the board everyday. I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TELLING YOU WHAT IS ON THE BOARD. Homework must be turned in at the beginning of class.

**LATE WORK/ MAKE-UP WORK:** I will accept late homework for three days after it is due. You will be deducted 10 points for each day it is late. On the fourth day the assignment becomes a zero. There will be no exceptions unless you make prior arrangements with me. Homework grading policy: 100% turned in on due date; 80% turned in late one day; 70% turned in two days late and 0% after three days late

**BINDERS:** Binders and journals must be kept neat. I will not accept messy, crumpled, or torn papers.

**TESTS:** Tests will be given at the conclusion of every unit (two or three chapters). Tests are given on the Theology Department testing day(Tuesday). They consist of multiple choice, identifications, short answer, and essay questions. They will cover material in assigned reading and class notes. **You are responsible to do the reading and to get any notes missed because of absence.**

**ABSENCE ON TEST DAYS:** If you miss a test due to an excused absence you will be able to make it up for full credit within one day of your absence. **It is your responsibility to make up the test. Thus you must schedule a make-up time with me when you return to class. If you fail to show up for your scheduled make-up time it is a zero.**

**PRAYER:** Each student is responsible for leading prayer once every nine weeks. In other words, you will lead prayer 4 times throughout the year. At the beginning of the nine weeks you will sign up for a prayer date. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMEMBERING THIS DATE.** I encourage creativity in prayer. Prayers will be graded on if you fulfill all elements of the prayer as listed on your 'Planning a Prayer' handout and on your oral presentation skills.

**QUIZZES:** Reading quizzes **can and will** be given at any time. They will cover the assigned reading from the night before. If you are absent on the day of a reading quiz you will receive an excused grade which means it will neither count for nor against you. The lowest reading quiz grade will be dropped at the end of each quarter.

**WRITING:.** All formal writing assignments need to be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Proper writing format will be reviewed more thoroughly in class.

**CHEATING:** If you are caught cheating on a test or quiz this will merit an immediate zero. Plagiarism is unacceptable; any paper copied from another will be given a zero. I like to read so I thoroughly read everything you turn into me. **DO NOT COPY** – it is lazy and uncreative.

**Grading** for this class is as follows:

Tests, projects and essays..... 55%  
Assignments..... 15%  
Quizzes..... 15%  
Participation..... 15%  
Service Hours Report is part of the Test category.

Support Services:

The school library -- open everyday from 8am to 4pm

[www.americancatholic.com](http://www.americancatholic.com) for current religious events

[www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com) for school assignments on line.

[www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com) for daily updates in class, for ex. School assignments, readings, etc...

I am thrilled to have you in my class. We are going to have a great year with your cooperation and participation.

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Student's signature/Date

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Parent's Signature/Date