

## SYLLABUS

**INSTITUTION:** St. Augustine High School,  
1300 Galveston St. Laredo, TX 78040  
**SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER:** 956 724-8131  
**COURSE TITLE:** Church History: Social Justice  
**GRADE:** Juniors  
**TITLE OF TEXT:** JUSTICE AND PEACE: Our Faith in Action by Joseph  
 Stoutzenberger: Harcourt Religion Publishers, @ 2007.  
**DATES OF COURSE:** January 8 – May 28, 2008  
**TEACHER:** Sister Rosemarie Goins, CSSF sr\_rosemarie@st-augustine.org

### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

The students will

- Be introduced to the Church's social teaching and mission.
- Understand Seven Core Values of Catholic Social Teaching: Life and dignity of the human person, Call to family, community and participation, Rights and responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Dignity of work and the rights of workers, Solidarity and Care for God's creation.
- Know and experience new life and the true meaning of the Two great Commandments: *You shall love the Lord your God with whole soul, your whole mind, your whole body and your neighbor as yourself* ( Mark 12: 28-34 and Luke 10: 25-28) and the manner in which Jesus improved the Second Great Commandment: *You will love your neighbor as I have loved you* ( John 13: 33-35).
- Have a deeper understanding of the development of the Church's moral teaching, doctrine and values in the Old Testament, taught and clarified by Jesus and handed down by the apostles (New Testament) and through the generations.
- Be challenged to accept more responsibility for their spiritual life and for making God visible in the world through the manner in which they live their lives and serve others.
- Develop a solid conscience based on strong moral principles as defined in the Bible, Church Tradition and Natural Law.
- Learn to not only heal the victims of injustice, but change those structures in society that cause and perpetuate injustice.
- Name issues in society that threaten the moral fabric of the family and society, such as, abortion, poverty, violence, greed, racism, materialism, euthanasia, prejudice, consumerism, trafficking of women, men and children, ecological suicide, etc., look at the causes of these situations and seek resolutions.
- See the importance of accepting responsibility and consequences of their actions.

## CONTENT:

- I. Review of Moral Theology:
  - a. An understanding of how the intellect and free will process information and make decisions.
  - b. Areas to look at in making moral decisions: Action, effect(result or goal), intention(motive) and circumstances. All must be good for the action to be good.
  - c. Law: Natural Law, Moral Law, Divine Law (Revealed Law), Human Law -Church Law and State/Country Law
  - d. Conditions that influence the degree of guilt: Knowledge, freedom of choice and honest seeking of the truth.
  - e. Two kinds of evil: physical and moral.
  - f. Mortal sin – serious matter, full knowledge and full consent.
- II. Justice
  - a. Definition
  - b. Distributive justice
  - c. Legal justice
  - d. Commutative justice
  - e. Social justice
- III. Values and social teachings as taught through the Old Testament, New Testament, Tradition, Reason and Natural Law.
- IV. The basis for Christian Justice – the Two Great Commandments and the agenda for Christian Justice – the Beatitudes.
- V. The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and how the Church continues Jesus’ mission in the world.
- VI. Freedom and conscience and their connection to our responses to social justice issues.
- VII. The Church’s revolutionary view of justice from the beginning of its inception and examples of the men and women who have been giants in social justice work.
- VIII. The encyclical, *Rerum Novarum(On the Condition of Workers)* by Pope Leo XIII, the first official Church teaching that sought to rectify social problems in the modern era.
- IX. Central themes of Catholic Social Teaching through encyclicals and other documents, ways in which society meets the needs of people, how social institutions affect people’s life and dignity and characteristics of contemporary U.S. culture.
- X. Relationship between charity and justice, mercy and social action, the effects of social structures that are just and unjust, how to support or

correct these structures and examples of those committed to right relationships.

- XI. The sacredness of human life, its protection from the moment of conception to natural death, ageism, persons with disabilities, the relationship between social justice and criminal justice and all other life issues.
- XII. Truths and myths about poverty, causes, results, solutions and ways of responding to poverty and the immigration issue in the United States.
- XIII. The examination of global poverty and its threat to health and life, determination of why certain countries are poor, causes of hunger, characteristics of poor countries, multinationals and single-export economies, political climates and the Christian response.
- XIV. Roots and characteristics of prejudice, thinking that divides humanity according to race and cultural backgrounds and racism.
- XV. Dignity of both men and women, sexism, domination and domestic violence.
- XVI. Environmental misuse and good stewardship of the environment.
- XVII. Levels of violence used in response to conflict, alternatives to war and conflict and the Church's teaching on war and peace.
- XVIII. Culture of violence, terrorism, modern tools of war and their impact on international peace and our role in peacemaking.

## **RESOURCES:**

### School Library:

- a. Religion and Reference Sections – 200.0
- b. Periodicals – St. Anthony Messenger, Our Sunday Visitor

### Internet:

- a. [usccb.org/cchd](http://usccb.org/cchd) (Catholic Campaign for Human Development)
- b. [catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://catholiccharitiesusa.org)
- c. [catholicrelief.org](http://catholicrelief.org)
- d. [igc.apc.org/cacp](http://igc.apc.org/cacp) (Catholics Against the Death Penalty)
- e. [deathpenalty.org](http://deathpenalty.org)
- f. [wagingpeace.org](http://wagingpeace.org) (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation)
- g. [catholicsandclimatechange.org](http://catholicsandclimatechange.org)
- h. [environmentaldefense.org](http://environmentaldefense.org)
- i. [globalissues.org](http://globalissues.org)
- j. [hrw.org](http://hrw.org) (Human Rights Watch)
- k. [coc.org](http://coc.org) (Center of Concern)
- l. [paxchristiusa.org](http://paxchristiusa.org)
- m. [simpleliving.org](http://simpleliving.org)
- n. [responsibleshopper.org](http://responsibleshopper.org)
- o. [vatican.va](http://vatican.va) (The Holy See)
- p. [sweatshops.org](http://sweatshops.org)

### Student Behaviors

.Be in your seat and ready to learn when class begins with textbook and materials on top.  
 .Be a polite, respectful and positive participant.  
 Be productive. Use class time well and turn in homework and projects on time. Avoid stealing time by talking and misbehaving. .Wait to be dismissed at end of class. Be a problem solver .  
 Be open to new ways of thinking and relating.  
 Be happy, creative and prayerful.

### Show Respect

.Value yourself. Be honest and ethical, and practice strong Christian moral values- Treat all members of the school community and all visitors with politeness and respect. .Honor the ideas and opinions of others.  
 Offer to help and ask for help. Be responsible with property and belongings. .Put into practice what you learn and experience in this class. .Pray to Jesus for the value of respect.

### Responsibility for Coursework

.Bring notebooks, textbook and appropriate writing tools and project materials to class every day.No torn spiral sheets accepted! Use cursive handwriting, unless there are special instructions. Use blue or black ink for assignments to be turned in or computer generated assignments. Know due dates and submit all course work on time. Write down assignments, vocabulary words and objectives for the day's lesson upon entering class. Take notes on class instruction and discussion. Ask for assistance before assignments, projects, essays, quizzes or tests are due or scheduled.

### Promote Lifelong Learning

You can develop lifelong learning traits:

- By showing curiosity for all that God has created and how to live in peace and harmony with all.
- By seeking and valuing diversity.
- By persisting in seeking out new solutions.
- By using your unique talents and intelligence to promote positive change.
- By learning and applying technology tools to solve problems.
- By praying for guidance and help from God every day.

### Grading

Grades are based on the following percentages:

15% Assignments(completion of daily work, assignments and homework.)

55% Tests, projects, essays Mass behavior.

**15% Participation - Based on daily participation, attention, presence of textbook, placement of notebook and writing equipment on top of desk immediately upon entering class, placement of backpack under desk or chair, no talking without being called upon and observance of any other class or school regulation.**

15% Quizzes

St. Augustine Grading System

93-100	Excellent Work
85-92	Above Average Work
77-84	Average Work
70-76	Below average
0-69	Failing

**ALL LATE WORK WILL RECEIVE NO HIGHER THAN AN 80%.**

**It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work immediately which was due while absent. Otherwise, it will be considered late and will be graded accordingly.**

### Policies

- .Food, gum and beverages are not allowed in the classroom
- School uniform is worn correctly at all times.
- Class begins when the second bell rings.
- .School rental textbooks must be covered at all times and kept in good condition. They will be collected at the end of the term. Severely damaged books \will be replaced at the Student's expense.
- .Student desks should be kept clean and all trash disposed of.
- The teacher's desk, computer, printer, phone, thermostat or any other equipment should not be touched.
- .Absences
  - Ask a classmate first for assignments and class notes
  - Refer to the school handbook regarding make-up assignments

### My Pledge to Students .

- I will trust you until you give me reason to do otherwise.
- .I will respect you and work with you to learn, reflect and pray.
- .I will promptly correct and offer feedback on your work.
- .I will work with you to meet learning goals.
- .I will offer extra help and alternative assessments should you require them.
- .I will pray for you and be available to you.

**All material is subject to change and adjustment**