

REL 308: CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY
Spring, 1998
TuTh 11:00 H 225

Dr. Jim Christiana, SM
735-4880

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will be engaged in dialogue this semester concerning Christian and non-Christian traditions of human dignity and social justice. Special emphasis will be placed on liberation from oppressive social structures.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Boff and Boff, *Introduction to Liberation Theology*

Additional reading will be placed on library reserve including selections from:

---Matthew Fox's *Coming of the Cosmic Christ*

---Documents of the Catholic Church relating to such issues as capitalism, economic and political justice, global human rights, and other contemporary issues.

Students will also need to have access to a Bible throughout the semester and will occasionally be required to bring it to class (especially on group discussion days and for several of the exams).

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE AND GRADES:

This course will attempt to integrate lectures and small group discussions. Final grades will be determined as follows:

---three--four exams (approximately 75%)

---two or three take home assignments (approximately 25%)

PLEASE NOTE: It is expected that students be present on the days that exams are administered and that all assignments be submitted on time. Students are not automatically entitled to makeup exams or to other extensions. It is always up to the discretion of the instructor to determine if and when makeups are given or if any other form of extension is merited and with what grade penalty.

Regular attendance is expected in this course. Students who accumulate more than three (unexcused) absences will begin to have points deducted from their final grade according to the discretion of the instructor.

I invite students to make an appointment to see me during the semester. The purpose is simply this: I do not enjoy teaching a class of strangers.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	SYLLABUS
I	Overview of Course Homeric Justice and the Wrath of Achilles Biblical Perspectives of Justice: Hebrew Scriptures; The Prophetic Voices
II	The Christian Scriptures and Justice READING: TBA
III--IV	Creation Spirituality READING: Fox, on library reserve
V--VI--VII	Liberation Theology READING: Boff and Boff complete text
VIII	FaithJustice and Beyond READING: TBA
IX--X	Church and State: Mission of the Church in a Pluralistic World READING: on library reserve
XI--XIII	Economic Justice: Sociological and Theological Concerns and Controversies Focus on the nature of work, labor, and economic relations READING: on library reserve
XIV--XV	Global Human Rights: A Catholic Understanding READING: on library reserve
XVI	Peacemaking as a Way of Life Just War Theory READING: on library reserve