

**REL 308: Christian Responsibility**  
**Spring 2000 TuTh 11--12:20 H 202**  
**Dr. Jim Christiana, SM**  
**OFFICE: H: 206 A 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 (economic and political) structures; the nature of human rights; competing images of church and religion in society; and the radical assertion that humans are created in the image of God.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Boff and Boff, *Introduction to Liberation Theology*
- Students will also need to have access to a Bible throughout the semester and will occasionally be required to bring it to class.
- Most readings for this course will be placed on library reserve. Students are encouraged to xerox personal copies of these articles for their own use.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE AND GRADES:**

This course will attempt to integrate lectures and small group discussions in an atmosphere of mutual respect.  
 Final grades will be determined as follows:

--three--four exams (essay; bluebooks)	70% of grade
---two take home assignments	30% of grade

**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

WEEKS	SYLLABUS
I--II	Overview of Course and instructor's approach Homeric Justice and the Wrath of Achilles  Biblical Perspectives of Justice: Hebrew Scriptures; The Prophetic Voices READINGS: library reserve
II--III	The Christian Scriptures and Justice READING: library reserve
III--IV	Creation Spirituality READING: Fox, on library reserve
V--VI--VII	Liberation Theology READING: Boff and Boff complete text
VIII	Faith Justice and Beyond READING: library reserve
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: library reserve
XVI	Peacemaking as a Way of Life Just War Theory READING: library reserve

**PLEASE NOTE:** The date and time of the last/final exam for all courses are determined by the university and are published in the Schedule of Classes. Regardless of format, our last exam will take place on Wednesday, 10 May at 8:00 AM. It is the responsibility of each student to be present at this time.