



## Working Toward Justice and Peace

Wong

### **Objective: To Learn how to: SEE—JUDGE—ACT**

In this course, students will become aware of justice/injustice in the world, analyze structures of injustice using the biblical tradition found in Scripture, the social teaching of the church and develop a personal response to justice in their lives and the world. Students will also appreciate the justice work of “the community of saints” – those who have modeled and continue to model justice. Students will apply the social teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church to some of the major issues of our time such as: poverty, homelessness, war, resource distribution and the World Order, and environmental crisis. Then they will find ways to work concretely toward helping to effect structural change.

### **Text:**

- Massaro, Thomas. *Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action*. Chicago: Sheed and Ward, 2000. **(LJ)**

### **Course Benchmarks and Performance Standards**

Students completing the 12<sup>th</sup> grade course in Working for Justice and Peace will:

- Identify elements of a just world (2, 3, 7,)
- Articulate the call to justice and peace for the faith community (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)
- Distinguish between direct service and structural change (2, 3, 6)
- Identify the characteristics of a Church and society that can effectively promote justice and peace (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9)
- Identify the consistent message of justice that permeates Scripture (1,2, 4)
- Describe the basic principles of Catholic social justice teaching (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Analyze Catholic social justice teaching in its official documents as well as in the work of theologians who speak from the margins of society (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)
- Apply the principles of Catholic social justice teaching to domestic and global issues (2, 3, 5, 6, 8)

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Unit 1 Introduction to Catholic Social Ethics (LJ chapters 1 and 2)**

- What is social justice?
- Elements of a just world
- A God who takes sides
- The two feet of justice
- *Written assignment: My personal social justice statement*

SEE – become aware of injustice in the world through news media, etc.

#### **Unit 2 The Church and Social Justice (LJ chapter 3 and 6)**

- What has Jerusalem to do with Athens?
- The role the church regarding social justice
- The history of the church and social justice
- The Documentary Tradition
- *Video or Powerpoint Assignment: Why I rend my garments*

CHOOSE an issue for Action

**Unit 3 The Four sources of wisdom (LJ chapter 4)**

- Revelation, Reason, Tradition and Experience
- *Research Assignment: Apply four sources to your chosen Action*

JUDGE – Decide what form Action will take

**Unit 4 Social justice in the real world**

- Ways of working for justice
- A community of saints
- Field trips: Homeboy Industries, Alexandria House, Corita
- *Written Assignment: 1 Cor 12 paper or Interview of a “saint”*

ACT – work on Action

**Unit 5 Ten Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (LJ chapter 5)**

- Human dignity; Solidarity; Family life; Subsidiarity; Property Ownership; Dignity of Work; Economic Development; Peace; Option for the Poor
- *Group presentations*
- *Written Assignment: Personal response to one CST theme*

**Unit 6 Liberation Theologies (Reading: TBA)**

- Theology as “Critical reflection on praxis”
- Feminist Theology
- The model of Mary
- *Written assignment: TBA*

**Assignments and Assessments**

- In addition to the written assignment for each unit, you must write a response paper for each of the guest speakers and field trips.
- Attendance during field trips and when we have guest speakers is compulsory.
- Participation during class discussions and group work will be graded.
- Your participation in Action will be graded
- There will be a weekly blog. Students are required to comment each article thoughtfully and respectfully as outlined in the Internet Use Agreement
- Your final grade in this class will be based on points but approximately breaks down as follows:

Reflection and research papers	45%
Group presentation	10%
“Action”	10%
Blog	5%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%