

Module Title: Catholic Social Teaching
Module Code: 501 TCST
Level: 5
Credit Rating: 20 Credits
Duration: Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours: 40 Hours
Academic Responsibility: Malcom Pitt PhD

Module Aims:

To facilitate a knowledge of the primary sources of the social teaching of the Catholic Church, and the historical context of their genesis. To identify the main themes in the reflection of the social magisterium of the Catholic Church on the historical processes of economic, social and political evolution. To examine the philosophical, theological and ethical suppositions of the social magisterium in the Catholic Christian analysis of society. To examine the relationship between an ethical analysis of social evolution and the empirical conclusions of research in the social sciences.

To investigate the status of the social teaching of the Catholic Church, and its relationship to the witness and social action of the Christian faithful.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the module students should be able to demonstrate:

1. A knowledge and general understanding of the basic documents of the social teaching of the Catholic Church from a study of the primary sources presented in the lectures.
2. A general understanding of the development of the social magisterium in its historical context as presented in the module using the primary and secondary sources referred to in the lectures.
3. An understanding of the method of the application of Catholic Christian ethical values by the social magisterium to social reality.
4. An understanding of the problematic relationship between the application of value judgments and the empirical analysis of causality in social evolution.

Indicative Module Content:

Students will examine the content and methodology of Catholic Social Teaching from the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (1891) of Leo XIII to the encyclical *Centesimus Annus* (1991) of John Paul II. Students will be study the Catholic Social Teaching in terms of its content, nature and doctrinal status, primarily from papal sources and the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Students will be introduced to 1) key concepts used in Catholic Social Teaching, such as “the common good”, “subsidiarity”, “solidarity”, “the priority of the person”, “the preferential option for the poor”, and “social justice”; 2) the scriptural, patristic and medieval contribution to the evolution of Catholic Social Teaching since 1891, with particular reference to the thought of St Thomas Aquinas and Neo-Thomism. The module will concentrate on an examination of 1) papal encyclicals and other authoritative pronouncements

since *Rerum Novarum* (1891); 2) the documents of the Second Vatican Council, with special reference to *Gaudium et Spes*; 3) the documents of Episcopal Synods and Conferences, with a particular reference to the Latin American Episcopal Council. The module will be a chronological study of the development of Catholic Social Teaching, with particular reference to the historical circumstances, including the development of the natural and social sciences. Special emphasis will be given to the development of: 1) the key concepts in their application to the changing economic, social and political circumstances of the times; and 2) the consistent themes of Catholic Social Teaching since *Rerum Novarum* such as the person and society in the Divine Plan, the right of the Catholic Church to pronounce on social questions and the role of the laity in social action, the relationship between work and private property, capital and labour, the economic systems of capitalism and socialism, trade unions and professional associations, the role of the state in social and economic affairs, and the option for the poor. Special emphasis will be given to the pontificate of John Paul II, with an examination of his response to Marxism and Liberation Theology.

The module will conclude with a summary of Catholic Social Teaching, and a discussion on the present post-communist international situation and globalisation in the light of the Gospel and the social magisterium.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The basic format of presentation will be four weekly lectures systematically treating the subject matter as described in the Indicative Module Content. Students are given specific weekly reading assignments as well as directed toward extra-curricular reading proposed by the instructor. Research interests are quickly identified and tutorial sessions, depending on individual needs of the students, arranged for clarification and direction, inclusive of suggested extra-curricular reading. Within the classroom context of lectures, active participation of students in terms of questions and, especially, discussion is strongly encouraged as a primary way of developing analytical skills, critical thinking, and clarity of expression.

Assessment:

The module will be assessed by two written essays of not less than 2,500 words each chosen from a selection of questions proposed by the instructor.

Indicative Essay Titles

Illustrative Bibliography

1. Primary Sources

The texts listed below as primary sources are Papal Letters and Encyclicals and Instructions from Congregations of the Holy See can be found in the FISC Library and can be accessed at <http://www.vatican.va>

John Paul II
City 1991

Centesimus Annus (1991)

Vatican

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 1984	<i>Instruction on Certain Aspects of the "Theology of Liberation"</i>	Vatican City
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 1994	<i>Instruction on Christian Freedom and Liberation</i> <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>	London 1986 London
Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace 2004	<i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i> <i>Rerum Novarum*</i> <i>Quadragesimo Anno</i> <i>Mater et Magistra</i> <i>Pacem in Terris</i> <i>Gaudium et Spes</i> <i>Populorum Progressio</i> <i>Redemptor Hominis</i> <i>Dives in Misericordia</i> <i>Laborem Exercens</i> <i>Sollicitudo Rei Socialis</i>	Vatican

2) Secondary Sources:

Baum, G. (1982)	<i>The Priority of Labour.</i>	Paulist Press.
Calvez, J-Y. and Oates. Perrin, J. (1961)	<i>The Church and Social Justice.</i>	Burns and
Charles, R. (1998) Blackfriars Press.	<i>Social Teaching of Vatican II.</i>	
Charles, R. (1998) Gracewing Press.	<i>Christian Social Witness and Teaching Vol 1& 2</i>	
Cort, J. (1988) Books.	<i>Christian Socialism.</i>	Orbis
Dorr, D. (1992) Books.	<i>Option for the Poor.</i>	Orbis
McKenna, L. (1991) Press.	<i>The Social Teaching of James Connolly.</i>	Trinity

Novak, M. (1991) *The Spirit of Democratic Socialism.* SCM Press.

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (1994) *Human Rights and the Church.* Vatican Press.

Schulteis, M., DeBerri, E., *Our Best Kept Secret.* Orbis. and Henriot, P. (1998)