

# **B50HF02 Ecological Ethics and Social Justice**

Bachelor of Divinity Degree

Pacific Theological College

Semester 1A, 2016

Course Lecturer: Dr Richard Davis, Richard.Davis@ptc.ac.fj

## **Course Description**

This course provides an overview of both ecological ethics and social justice. Key questions to be explored include: What is ecological ethics? Why ecological ethics? What is social justice? Why social justice? The issue of value is central for both ecological ethics and social justice – the value of the non-human beings (or nature/environment) which is crucial to ecological ethics, and the value human beings which is crucial to social justice. The aspect that is common to both areas is justice and so focus will be on justice for both the environment (environmental justice) and human beings (social justice). The interconnectedness of the two areas – ecological ethics and social justice – will be highlighted by using the theme of violence; violence that human beings inflict upon nature and violence that human beings inflict upon other fellow human beings. To live justly with nature and to live justly with fellow human beings is the vision encouraged and advanced in this course.

## **Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Make a case for the importance of Christian concern for social justice and the care of creation
- Understand the similarities and differences between secular justice and theological justice
- Identify resources for a Christian critique of capitalism
- Interpret the case for human rights for minorities and women
- Explain the case for against violence in the pursuit of justice
- Understand the theological case for restorative justice
- Apply the concept of reconciliation to social justice and environmental concerns

## **Method of Teaching**

A combination of lectures, readings, writing, and class discussion.

## **Assessment**

In all assessment you must ANSWER THE QUESTION. If you do not answer the question you will not do well. If you don't understand what is required in the essay please speak to the lecturer, either

in class or after class. To pass the course you must pass both pieces of assessment.

1) **Essay** of 1000-1500 words worth 40% of final grade. It is due in class Tuesday 1 March 2016. Select an issue of injustice from your context (eg. poverty, corruption, pollution, climate change, violence against women, inequality) and address this issue using selected Bible texts. In writing this essay you must:

- give evidence for the existence of this injustice (with suitably referenced evidence). For example, you cannot simply assert the existence of climate change - show in your essay that it exists with evidence from a reliable source.
- select relevant Bible verses
- apply the teaching of Scripture to your issue in such a way that highlights the injustice and ethical problem

You must provide evidence of this research by citing appropriate sources (generally speaking books and journals from the library). Sources must be adequately referenced to avoid Poor Academic Performance or Plagiarism. Your assignment must have a completed "PTC Assignment Cover Sheet" attached to the front of the assignment. This can be obtained from [http://ptc.ac.fj/?page\\_id=1136](http://ptc.ac.fj/?page_id=1136).

2) **Final Exam** to be held in Assessment Week. Worth 60% of the final grade. Details to come.

## Textbook and Readings

The textbook for this class is George W. Forell and James M. Childs (2013). *Christian Social Teachings: A Reader in Christian Social Ethics from the Bible to the Present*, Second Edition, New York: Fortress Press. This is available from the PTC bookshop and is also in the library. Most of the course readings are from this book, so you need to have it.

This course text is supplemented by other readings from books or journals. As required these are taken will be kept on closed reserve in the PTC Library. Ask at the issue desk for them. It is up to you whether you read them in the library or photocopy them for your personal study. Journal articles and book chapters will either be available through the library's online ATLA Religion Database, or in the library's filing cabinet.

Please bring your Bible to class. While English is the medium of instruction, you may bring a Bible in any language known to you.

There are several reference works on Christian Ethics also held by the library. These include:

- *Pocket Dictionary of Ethics* by Stanley J. Grenz and Jay T. Smith (Illinois, US: InterVarsity Press, 2003).
- *Dictionary of Ethics, Theology and Society* edited by Paul Barry Clarke and Andrew Linzey (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1996).
- *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology* edited by David J. Atkinson

et.al. (England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995).

- *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics* edited by James F. Childress and John Macquarrie (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986).
- *A New Dictionary of Christian Ethics* edited by James F. Childress and John Macquarrie (London: SCM Press, 1967).
- *A Dictionary of Christian Ethics* edited by John Macquarrie (London: SCM Press, 1967).

The library holds several other works related to the course themes. Some are listed here and some are on closed reserve in the Library in order to assist with essay and exam preparation:

- Boulton, Wayne G., Thomas D. Kennedy, and Allen Verhey, eds. 1994. *From Christ to the World: Introductory Readings in Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Finn, Daniel K. (2013). *Christian Economic Ethics: History and Implications*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Gill, Robin. (2006). *A Textbook of Christian Ethics*. London: T & T Clark.
- Singh, David Emmanuel and Bernard C. Farr, eds. (2013). *The Bible and Christian Ethics*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
- Stackhouse, Max L., et al eds. (1995). *On Moral Business: Classical and Contemporary Resources for Ethics in Economic Life*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

## Course Outline

### Week 1 - Introduction to Christian Social Ethics (week beginning 1 February 2016)

#### Session 1: Introduction to the Course and Ecological Ethics and Social Justice

No reading.

#### Session 2: Traditions and Issues in Social Ethics

##### Required Reading

- Micah 6:8
- Amos 5:24
- Rauschenbusch, Walter. (1918). *A Theology for the Social Gospel*. New York: Macmillan. Chapter 13. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Rauschenbusch](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Rauschenbusch) (PDF)
- Momis, John. (1987). 'The Christian Vision of a New Society' *The Gospel Is Not Western: Black Theologies from the Southwest Pacific* edited by G. W. Trompf Maryknoll: Orbis Books. 157–165. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Momis](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Momis) (PDF)

##### Further Reading

- Coggle, Bertrand J. and John P. K. Byrnes. (1960). *Christian Social Ethics: A*

*Methodist Approach*. London: Epworth Press. [in library]

- Dorrien, Gary J. (2009). *Social Ethics in the Making: Interpreting an American Tradition*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. [in library]
- Niles, D. Preman. (1992). *Between the Flood and the Rainbow: Interpreting the Conciliar Process of Mutual Commitment (Covenant) to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation*. Geneva: WCC Publications. [in library]
- Niles, D. Preman. (1989). *Resisting the Threats to Life: Covenanting for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation*. Geneva: World Council of Churches. [in library]
- Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2004). *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Compendium](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Compendium)
- Sider, Ronald J. (1990). *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: A Biblical Study*. London: Hodder & Stoughton. [in library]
- Stackhouse, Max L. (1995). *Christian Social Ethics in a Global Era*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. [in library]

## Week 2 - Justice (week beginning 8 February 2016)

### Session 1: Justice in Philosophical Traditions

#### Required Reading

- Romans 2:14-16
- Cicero. *On the Laws*, Book I, §42-49. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Cicero](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Cicero) (PDF)
- Plato. 'On the Myth of the Ring and the Economics of the City' from *The Republic*, In *On Moral Business: Classical and Contemporary Resources for Ethics in Economic Life*. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Plato](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Plato) (PDF) [in library]
- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book V.1–3, 1129a–1131b. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Aristotle](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Aristotle) (PDF) [in library]

#### Further Reading

- Lebacqz, Karen. (1986). *Six Theories of Justice: Perspectives from Philosophical and Theological Ethics* Minneapolis: Augsburg. [in library]
- MacIntyre, Alasdair C. (1988). *Whose Justice? Which Rationality?*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Mill, John Stuart. (1863). *Utilitarianism*. ONLINE: <http://www.utilitarianism.com/mill1.htm>
- Rawls, John. (1971). *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge: Belknap Press. [in library]
- Walzer, Michael. (1983). *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*. Oxford: Blackwell.

### Session 2: Justice in Theological Traditions

#### Required Reading

- Deuteronomy 16:20

- Psalm 82
- Proverbs 29:26
- Amos 5:24
- Aquinas, Thomas, *Summa Theologica*, II/2, Question 58, Articles 1, 11, 12. *Christian Social Teachings*. §10.4, 86–89.
- Niebuhr, Reinhold, 'Justice and Love'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §31.2, 258–260.
- Niebuhr, Reinhold, 'Christian Faith and Natural Law'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §31.3, 260–265.
- Hauerwas, Stanley, 'A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §42.2, 498–505.

#### Further Reading

- Coomber, Matthew J. M., ed. (2011). *Bible and Justice: Ancient Texts, Modern Challenges*. London: Equinox. [in library]
- Gardner, E. Clinton. (1995). *Justice and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Grassi, Joseph A. (2003). *Informing the Future: Social Justice in the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press. [in library]
- Haughey, John C., ed. (1977). *The Faith That Does Justice: Examining the Christian Sources for Social Change* New York: Paulist Press. [in library]
- Lebacqz, Karen. (1987). *Justice in an Unjust World: Foundations for a Christian Approach to Justice*. Augsburg: Minneapolis. [in library]
- Malchow, Bruce V. (1996). *Social Justice in the Hebrew Bible: What Is New and What Is Old*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press. [in library]
- Marshall, Chris. (2005). *The Little Book of Biblical Justice: A Fresh Approach to the Bible's Teachings on Justice*. Intercourse: Good Books. [in library]

### Week 3 - Economic Justice (week beginning 15 February 2016)

#### Session 1: Poverty and Patristics

##### Required Reading

- Leviticus 25:35
- Acts 2:44-45
- Galatians 6:2
- 'The Shepherd of Hermas' in Peter C. Phan, ed. (1984). *Social Thought*. Message of the Fathers of the Church. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 51–55. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Shepherd](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Shepherd) (PDF) [in library]
- Clement of Alexandria, 'The Rich Man's Salvation'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §5.2, 36–38.
- St Basil the Great. 'To the Rich'. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Basil](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Basil)

##### Further Reading

- Chrysostom, John. (1985). *On Wealth and Poverty*, translated by Catharine P. Roth. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.
- Hengel, Martin. (1974). *Property and Riches in the Early Church: Aspects of a Social History of Early Christianity*. London: SCM Press. [in library]
- Holman, Susan R. (2001). *The Hungry Are Dying: Beggars and Bishops in Roman Cappadocia*. Oxford New York: Oxford University Press. [in library]
- Longenecker, Bruce W. and Kelly D. Liebengood, eds. (2009). *Engaging Economics: New Testament Scenarios and Early Christian Reception*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [in library]
- Osiek, Carolyn. (1999). *Shepherd of Hermas: A Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. [in library]
- Rhee, Helen. (2012). *Loving the Poor, Saving the Rich: Wealth, Poverty, and Early Christian Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.
- Shewring, Walter, ed. (1948). *Rich and Poor in Christian Tradition*. London: Burns Oates & Washbourne.

## Session 2: Capitalism and Christianity

### Required Reading

- Matthew 6:24
- Matthew 20:1-16
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- Wesley, John, 'The Use of Money', *Christian Social Teachings*. §21.1, 181–187.
- Leo XIII, 'Rerum Novarum', *Christian Social Teachings*. §27.1, 218–220.
- Pius XI, 'Quadragesimo anno', *Christian Social Teachings*. §27.2, 220–223.

### Further Reading

- Duchrow, Ulrich and Franz J. Hinkelammert. (2004). *Property for People, Not for Profit: Alternatives to the Global Tyranny of Capital*, translated by Elaine Griffiths, et al. Geneva: World Council of Churches. [in library]
- Atherton, John. (2008). *Transfiguring Capitalism: An Enquiry into Religion and Global Change*. London: SCM Press.
- Bell, Daniel M., Jr. (2012). *The Economy of Desire: Christianity and Capitalism in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.
- Fanfani, Amintore. (1935). *Catholicism, Protestantism and Capitalism*. London: Sheed & Ward. [in library]
- Hinkelammert, Franz J. (1986). *The Ideological Weapons of Death: A Theological Critique of Capitalism*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.
- Tawney, R. H. (1922). *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism: A Historical Study*. West Drayton, Middlesex: Penguin. [in library]
- Vidler, Alex R. (1966). *F. D. Maurice and Company: Nineteenth Century Studies*. London: SCM Press. [in library]

## **Week 4 - Injustice and Rights (week beginning 22 February 2016)**

### **Session 1: Racial Injustice and Civil Rights**

#### **Required Reading**

- John 7:24
- Romans 10:12
- Truth, Sojourner, 'Ain't I a Woman?'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §25.1, 207–208.
- Douglass, Frederick, 'The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §25.2, 208–212.
- King, Martin Luther, 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §37.1, 346–357.

#### **Further Reading**

- Carter, J. Kameron. (2008). *Race: A Theological Account*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cronin, Kieran. (1992). *Rights and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Harrelson, Walter. (1988). *The Ten Commandments and Human Rights*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. [in library]

### **Session 2: Gender Injustice and Women's Rights**

#### **Required Reading**

- Genesis 1:27
- Acts 2:17-18
- Galatians 3:28
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford, 'Sexism and God-Talk'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §35.1, 298–307.
- Cannon, Katie Geneva, 'Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §36.1, 324–330.

#### **Further Reading**

- Beitz, Charles R. (2009) *The Idea of Human Rights*. New York: Oxford University Press. [in library]
- Parsons, Susan Frank. (1996). *Feminism and Christian Ethics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. [in library]
- Wollstonecraft, Mary. (1995). *A Vindication of the Rights of Men with A Vindication of the Rights of Woman and Hints*, edited by Sylvana Tomaselli. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [in library]

## **Week 5 - Ecological Justice (week beginning 29 February 2016)**

## Session 1: The Origins of Ecological Injustice

### Required Reading

- Genesis 1:28
- Isaiah 24
- Jeremiah 12:4
- Bookchin, Murray. (1988). 'The Crisis in the Ecology Movement'. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/EESJ\\_Bookchin](http://bit.ly/EESJ_Bookchin)
- White, Lynn, Jr. (1967). 'The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis'. *Science*, New Series, 155 (3767): 1203–1207. ONLINE [http://bit.ly/EESJ\\_White](http://bit.ly/EESJ_White)
- Zhang, Yonghong. (2013). 'Capitalism and Ecological Crisis'. *Journal of Sustainable Society*. 2 (3): 69-73. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/EESJ\\_Zhang](http://bit.ly/EESJ_Zhang) (PDF)

### Further Reading

- Boff, Leonardo and Virgilio P. Elizondo, eds. (1995). *Ecology and Poverty: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. London: SCM Press. [in library]
- Marlow, Hilary . (2009). *Biblical Prophets and Contemporary Environmental Ethics: Re-Reading Amos, Hosea and First Isaiah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [in library]
- Northcott, Michael S. (1996). *The Environment and Christian Ethics*. London: Cambridge University Press. [in library]
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford. (1993). *Gaia & God: An Ecofeminist Theology of Earth Healing*. London: SCM Press. [in library]

## Session 2: Towards Ecological Justice

### Required Reading

- Genesis 2:15
- Numbers 35:33-34
- St Francis of Assisi, *Christian Social Teachings*. §8.3, 64–65.
- Sittler, Joseph, 'Called to Unity', *Christian Social Teachings*. §39.1, 410–414.
- Rasmussen, Larry L., 'Is Eco-Justice Central to Christian Faith?' from *Earth Community, Earth Ethics*', *Christian Social Teachings*. §39.2, 414–419.
- Nash, James, 'Loving Nature: Ecological Integrity and Christian Responsibility', *Christian Social Teachings*. §39.4, 429–441.

### Further Reading

- Boff, Leonardo. (1995). *Ecology and Liberation: A New Paradigm*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books. [in library]
- Deane-Drummond, Celia. (2008). *Eco-Theology*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd.
- Rasmussen, Larry L. (1996). *Earth Community, Earth Ethics*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books. [in library]
- Tokar, Brian. (2014). *Toward Climate Justice: Perspectives on the Climate Crisis and Social Change*. Porsgrunn: New Compass Press.



## Week 6 - Violence and Justice (week beginning 7 March 2016)

### Session 1: Violence for Justice

#### Required Reading

- Romans 13:1-7
- Augustine, 'Peace and Just War', *Christian Social Teachings*. §7.6, 54–56.
- Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, II/2, Question 64, Articles 2–3 and Question 40, Article 1. *Christian Social Teachings*. §10.6, 92–95.
- Suárez, *Disputation XII: On Charity*, Chapter 1. *Christian Social Teachings*. §15.2, 142–146.
- Elshtain, Jean Bethke, 'Just War against Terror' *Christian Social Teachings*. §41.3, 484–490.

#### Further Reading

- Davies, J. G. (1976). *Christians, Politics and Violent Revolution* Maryknoll: Orbis Books. [in library]
- Fanon, Frantz. (1963). *The Wretched of the Earth* New York: Grove Press. [in library]
- Pottenger, John R. (1989). *The Political Theory of Liberation Theology: Toward a Reconvergence of Social Values and Social Sciences*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Sorel, Georges. (1999). *Reflections on Violence*, edited by Jeremy Jennings. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Torres, Camilo. (1971). *Revolutionary Priest: The Complete Writings and Messages of Camilo Torres*, edited by John Gerassi. Harmondsworth: Penquin.

### Session 2: Justice without Violence

#### Required Reading

- Matthew 5
- 'The Schleithem Confession', *Christian Social Teachings*. §14.1, 129–132.
- Hoekema, David A., 'A Practical Christian Pacifism' *Christian Social Teachings*. §41.1, 475–480.
- Yoder, John Howard. (2009). 'A Theological Critique of Violence' in *The War of the Lamb: The Ethics of Nonviolence and Peacemaking*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press.  
ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/EESJ\\_Yoder](http://bit.ly/EESJ_Yoder)

#### Further Reading

- Bainton, Roland H. (1960). *Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace: A Historical Survey and Critical Re-evaluation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. [in library]
- Macgregor, G. H. C. (1958). *The New Testament Basis of Pacifism*. London: The Fellowship of Reconciliation. [in library]
- Yoder, John Howard. (1994). *The Politics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. [in library]

library]

## Week 7 - Reconciling Justice (week beginning 14 March 2016)

### Session 1: Restorative Justice

#### Required Reading

- Luke 15:11-32
- Romans 12:19
- Marshall, Christopher D. (2007). 'Offending, Restoration, and the Law-Abiding Community: Restorative Justice in the New Testament and in the New Zealand Experience.' *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 27 (2):3–30. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Marshall](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Marshall)

#### Further Reading

- Baum, Gregory and Harold Wells, eds. (1997). *The Reconciliation of Peoples: Challenge to the Churches*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.
- De Gruchy, John W. (2002) *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice* Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Marshall, Christopher D. (2001). *Beyond Retribution: A New Testament Vision for Justice, Crime, and Punishment*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Marshall, Christopher D. (2012). *Compassionate Justice: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue with Two Gospel Parables on Law, Crime, and Restorative Justice*. Eugene: Cascade Books.
- Myers, Ched and Elaine Enns. (2009). *Ambassadors of Reconciliation: Volume 1, New Testament Reflections on Restorative Justice and Peacemaking*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.
- Myers, Ched and Elaine Enns. (2009). *Ambassadors of Reconciliation: Volume 2, Diverse Christian Practices of Restorative Justice and Peacemaking*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.
- Sobrino, Jon, 'The Principle of Mercy: Taking the Crucified People from the Cross'. *Christian Social Teachings*. §37.4, 370–376.
- Zehr, Howard, (1990). *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice*. Scottdale: Herald Press.
- Zehr, Howard, (2002). *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*. Intercourse: Good Books.

#### Further Watching

- *Beyond Right and Wrong: Stories of Justice and Forgiveness* (2012). Directors: Lekha Singh and Roger Spottiswoode. Running time: 1h 22m.
- *Beyond Forgiving* (2013). Director: Imad Karam. Running time: 29m.

### Session 2: The Reconciliation of all Creation

#### Required Reading

- Isaiah 11:6-9
- Ephesians 1
- Colossians 1:15-20
- 2 Peter 3:11-13
- Flor, Elmer. (2002). 'The Cosmic Christ and Ecojustice in the New Cosmos (Ephesians 1).' In *The Earth Bible, Volume 5: The Earth Story in the New Testament*, edited by Norman C. Habel and Vicky Balabanski, 137–147. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Flor](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Flor) (PDF)
- Moltmann, Jürgen. (1990). *The Way of Jesus Christ: Christology in Messianic Dimensions*. London: SCM Press, 301–312. ONLINE: [http://bit.ly/SJEE\\_Moltmann](http://bit.ly/SJEE_Moltmann) (PDF)

### Further Reading

- Bahnson, Fred and Norman Wirzba. (2012). *Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation*. Downers Grove: IVP Books.
- Bauckham, Richard. (2010). *Bible and Ecology: Rediscovering the Community of Creation*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd.
- Walsh, Brian J. and Sylvia C. Keesmaat. (2005). *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*. Bletchley: Paternoster.