**E-502 Ethics of Power and Racism Seminar**

Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF  
Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:45 p.m.  
Classroom #214

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Please call or e-mail to set an appointment

**Course Description:**

It is said that when ethical norms are articulated in a field of power, they often construct a moral / immoral binary which marginalizes individuals, generates categories of behavioral and moral “deviance” and abnormality, effectively constructing morality’s “Other.” This course will explore the numerous ways that, particularly white northern Europeans managed to create and sustain such norms, that resulted in various forms of colonization and enslavement of those who were defined as “Other” – forming, shaping and sustaining racism.


Recognizing that racism is manifest in spatial, individual, institutional and internalized forms, this course will also explore some of the personal dynamics that sustain racism in our day. By examining moral and doctrinal themes, especially Catholic Social Teaching, we will locate the contributions of our institutions and tradition that undergird racism, and their potential for uprooting racism.

**Course Format:** Students will make weekly presentations that will be the focus of class discussions. As a final seminar project, each student will prepare a research paper in which s/he will explore the dynamics of power that shape and sustain racism in her or his own context.

**Required Texts**  
* From the Publication Office of the USCCB
   [Selections are on library reserve in a binder]

*1. *Brothers & Sisters to Us / For Love of One Another* No. 653-0 [$3.50]
*2. *Reconciled Through Christ* No. 5-025 [$3.50]

**Recommended**
5. *Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself* No.5-393  (Publications Office of the USCCB)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Active participation** in class discussions and exercises.

2. **Abstract and Analysis Papers** — For all of the 9 scheduled classes (after January 6th), select one of the required readings for the session and write a 2-3 page (double spaced) abstract & analysis paper in which you begin with an abstract of the author’s work and then proceed to analyze the author’s arguments. This is not primarily a summary of the article, but your critique of the author’s work based on your knowledge of ethics and ethical theory. Students will sign up for a specific article during the first class session. (See course website for guidelines for these papers.)

   **NOTE:** All students should submit their papers via the course web site “Digital Drop Box” (for the professor) and the “Discussion Board” (for fellow students) no later than midnight of the Sunday prior to our Tuesday session. This will allow the professor and all class participants to read your paper and give some consideration to your thoughts prior to our session. You should bring your paper to the class and you may use it (not read it) for your participation in the discussion. After each class session, the professor will insert comments on your abstract and sent it back to you via the Digital Drop Box.

   If this process of submitting papers is new to you, please see the technical assistant in the student computer lab, 3rd floor of the CTU Library.

3. **Lead a class session** — Depending on the class size, all students will be assigned to plan and lead at least one seminar session. Prior to the session, the student(s) must meet with the instructor and plan the session in detail. Prior to meeting with the professor, you should have read the REQUIRED readings and at least have the main ideas from each of the ABSTRACT CHOICE readings in mind. You should bring a draft of your plan for the presentation. This draft will be the basis of your conversation with the professor. (A sign-up sheet for this will be circulated at the class first session.)

4. **Final Seminar Paper** — All students are to write a final paper.

   **MA and D. Min. Students** should design the paper around a question that pertains to their focus areas.

   **M. Div. Students** should focus their paper on a pastoral situation. The paper should discuss a pastoral strategy for dealing with the situation. The paper must show how the chosen pastoral strategy is supported by the material discussed in this seminar, and must explain why the strategy chosen is the best option.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

**January 6**

**Introduction**

In Class: VIDEO: Race: The Power of an Illusion – Parts 1 & 2 [See interactive resources at: http://www.pbs.org/race/000General/000_00-Home.htm ]

In Class: Sign up for presentations and abstracts; organize seminar

**January 13**

**Histories and Theories of Race and Power**

Required:

In Class VIDEO: Race: The Power of an Illusion – Part 3  [See interactive resources at: http://www.pbs.org/race/000General/000_00-Home.htm ]

Omi & Winant, *Racial Formation*, Part I  {Continues}
January 13 {Continues}
Abstract Choice:

Race, Power and a Sense of Sin

January 20
Required:
Omi & Winant, Racial Formation, Part II & Part III

Abstract Choice:
Jennifer Reed-Bouley, “Catholic Social Teaching and United Farm Workers,” in Theology: Expanding the Boarders, 304 – 319.

January 27
Required:
Bhattacharyya, Small, & Gabriel. Race & Power, Chapters 1-3
Daniel C. Maguire, A New American Justice, especially 99 –188. (See Course Documents on website) {Continues}
January 27  [Continues]
Abstract Choice:
Patrick Kerans, *Sinful Social Structures*.
Christine Firer Hinze, *Comprehending Power in Christian Social Ethics*, 206 – 290. (See Course Documents on website)

Racism and Redemption

February 3
Required:
Bhattacharyya, Small, & Gabriel. *Race & Power*, Chapters 4-6

Abstract Choice:
Antonio Moser & Bernardino Leers, Jesus Christ: God’s Purpose Fulfilled,” in *Moral Theology: Dead Ends and Alternatives*, 92 – 111.
**Racism and the Church**

**February 10**

**Required:**


**Abstract Choice:**


P. Phan, “The Experience of Migration as a Source of Intercultural Theology,” in *Christianity With an Asian Face*, 3-25.

______. “A Common Journey, Different Paths, Same Destination,” in *Christianity With an Asian Face*, 26-46.

______. “The Dragon and the Eagle,” in *Christianity With an Asian Face*, 228-248.

**February 17**

**Required:**

Shamit Saggar, “Asians and Race Relations in Britain,” in *Transforming Race Relations*, 363-393. **OR**

Christine Inglis, “Asians and Race Relations in Australia,” in *Transforming Race Relations*, 395-432.

**AND**

Choose one of the following documents (or – with the approval of the professor, a document from your region that deals with racism) and do an analysis of the document following the guidelines given on the course web page. Come to class prepared to summarize your findings and to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your document concerning theological and ethical grounding as well as its strategic effectiveness.

*Hispanic Ministry at the Turn of the New Millennium*
[http://www.usccb.org/hispanicaffairs/study.htm](http://www.usccb.org/hispanicaffairs/study.htm)

[http://www.usccb.org/mrs/stranger.htm](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/stranger.htm)

{Continues}
February 17  {Continues}  
To the People of God Journeying in Central America – Bishops of Central America, 2002  
http://www.ftaareferendum.org/nyc/MoreInfo/Bishops.html  
Ethical and Gospel Imperatives for Overcoming Dire Poverty and Hunger - Bishops of Brazil, 2002  
The Future is Ours – The Bishops of Zambia, 1992  
Journeying Together toward the Third Millennium – 5th Assembly of the Federation of  
Asian Bishop’s Conferences, 1990  
A Renewed Church in Asia: A Mission of Love and Service – 7th Assembly of the  
Federation of Asian Bishop’s Conferences, 2000  
A Milestone for the Human Family – Catholic Bishops of Australia, 1998  
The Common Good and the Catholic Church’s Social Teaching – Catholic Bishops of  

Asian and Pacific Perspectives

February 24  
Required:  
U.S. Catholic Bishops, Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith [See  
http://www.nccbuscc.org/mrs/harmony.htm  
Australian Catholic Bishops, A Milestone for the Human Family  
Asian Bishop’s Conferences, A Renewed Church In Asia [??? Check available ???]

Abstract Choice:  
Yen Le Espiritu and Michael Omi, “Who are You Calling Asian?: Shifting Identity  
Taeku Lee, “Racial Attitudes and Color Lines at the Close of the Twentieth Century,” in  
Transforming Race Relations, 103-158.  
Robert G. Lee, “Fu Man Chu Lives! Asian Pacific Americans as Permanent Aliens in  
American Culture,” in Transforming Race Relations, 159-185.  
Synod of Bishops Special Assembly for Oceania, Jesus Christ and the Peoples of  
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_24081998_oceania- 
instrlabor_en.html
Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples

March 2
Required:
USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Native American Catholics, “Native American Catholics at the Millennium.” [http://www.usccb.org/education/nativeam.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/education/nativeam.pdf) [See course document section of class webpage]

Abstract Choice:
Shall We Overcome?

March 9
Required:

Abstract Choice: