

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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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.

“Racism is a sin.” -- U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Brothers and Sisters to Us*, #9 (1979). 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

1. María Pilar Aquino & Roberto S. Goizueta, eds. *Theology: Expanding the Borders*. The Annual Publication of the College Theology Society. Volume 43 (1998). Mystic, VT: Twenty-third Publications, 1998. ISBN#: 0-89622-933-5
[Selections are on library reserve in a binder]
 2. *Theological Studies*, “The Catholic Reception of Black Theology,” Volume 61 Number 4 (December 2000). Entire issue. [\$10.00]
 3. Gargi Bhattacharyya, Stephen Small, & John Gabriel. *Race & Power: Global Racism in the 21st Century*. New York: Routledge, 2001. ISBN# 0-415-21971-X (Paperback) [\$27.95]
 4. Michael Omi & Howard Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States: From 1960’s to the 1990’s*. 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge, 1994. ISBN # 0-415-908-647 (Paperback) [\$22.95]
- *1. *Brothers & Sisters to Us / For Love of One Another* No. 653-0 [\$3.50]
*2. *Reconciled Through Christ* No. 5-025 [\$3.50]
*3. *Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith* No.5-449 [\$4.95]

Recommended

1. Clarence Earl Williams. *Recovery From Everyday Racisms*. Detroit, MI: Archdiocese of Detroit, 1999.
2. Paul Kivel. *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work For Racial Justice*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 1996. ISBN#: (USA) 0-86571-338-3
3. Frank H. Wu. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*. New York: Basic Books, 2002. ISBN#: 0-465-00639-6
4. Rodriguez, Richard. *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*. New York: Viking, 2002. ISBN#:0-6700-304-30
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 you 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:

Bradford E. Hinze, "Ethnic and Racial Diversity and the Catholicity of the Church," in *Theology: Expanding the Borders*, 162 – 199.

Anne E. Patrick, "Markers, Barriers and Frontiers: Theology in the Borderlands," in *Theology: Expanding the Borders*, 3-21.

George C. L. Cummings, "Racism in the U.S. from 1492-1992: A Theological Critique of the Context of Contemporary Ministry," in *Reading the Signs of the Times: Resources for Cultural and Social Analysis*, 78 – 87.

David Brion Davis, "Constructing Race: A Reflection," in *In the Image of God: Moral Values and Our Heritage of Slavery*, 307 – 322.

_____, "The Culmination of Racial Polarities and Prejudice," in *In the Image of God: Moral Values and Our Heritage of Slavery*, 323 – 342.

Elizabeth McKeown, "Tribal Encounters: Catholic Approaches to Cultural Anthropology," in *American Catholic Traditions: Resources for Renewal*, 210–21.

Race, Power and a Sense of Sin**January 20**Required:

Omi & Winant, *Racial Formation*, Part II & Part III

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Brothers and Sisters to Us* (1979). [See <http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/race.htm>]

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, *For the Love of One Another* (1989). [See Course Documents on website]

Abstract Choice:

James H. Cone, "Black Liberation Theology and Black Catholics: A Critical Conversation," *Theological Studies* 61 (2000): 731 - 747.

Cyprian Davis, "Black Catholic Theology: A Historical Perspective," *Theological Studies* 61 (2000): 656 – 671.

Virgilio P. Elizondo, "Transformation of the Borders: Border Separation of New Identity," in *Theology: Expanding the Borders*, 22-39.

Jennifer Reed-Bouley, "Catholic Social Teaching and United Farm Workers," in *Theology: Expanding the Borders*, 304 – 319.

Evelyn A. Kirkley, "Masking the Invisible: Hispanic and Latino Americans in U.S. Religious Historiography," in *Theology: Expanding the Borders*, 60 – 79.

Carmelo Alvarez, "Theology From the Margins: A Caribbean Response, A People of God in the Caribbean," in *Theology: Expanding the Borders*, 259 – 279.

January 27Required:

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)

Victor Anderson, “Three Paths to Empowerment in Recent African American Theology and Ethics,” *Religious Studies Review* 28/1 January 2002): 11-17.

Studs Terkel, “C. P. Ellis,” in G. Colombo, R. Cullen, & B. Lisle, *Rereading America*, Fifth Edition, 562-72. [See Course Documents section of course website & VIDEO – available from the professor]

James H. Evans, Jr., “Eschatology, White Supremacy, and the Beloved Community,” in R. Chopp & M. Taylor, Eds., *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, 346-73.

Sharon D. Welch, “Human Beings, White Supremacy, and Racial Justice,” in R. Chopp & M. Taylor, Eds., *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, 170- 194.

Frank H. Wu, “Neither Black nor White: Affirmative Action and Asian Americans,” in *Yellow: Race In America Beyond Black and White*, 131 – 172; 365 – 368.

_____, “The Power of Coalitions: Why I Teach at Howard,” in *Yellow: Race In America Beyond Black and White*, 301 – 342; 378 – 381.

Jeffery Marlow, “Beyond the Daily Dose of Hatred: Religion and the Study of White Separatism,” *Religious Studies Review* 28/3 (July 2002): 201-07.

B. Massingale, “Catholics Should Stand Firm on Affirmative Action,” *Salt of the Earth* (On-Line: <http://salt.claretianpubs.org/issues/racism/affirm.html>)

Paul M. Ong, “Affirmative Action Divide,” in *Transforming Race Relations*, 313-361.

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.

Roberto S. Goizueta, “A Resourcement From the Margins,” in *Theology and Lived Christianity*, Vol. 45 College Theology Society, 3-37.

Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, “Christian Redemption Between Colonialism and Pluralism,” in *Reconstructing Christian Theology*, 269-302.

Michael Amaladoss, “Life in Freedom,” in *Life in Freedom: Liberation Theologies From Asia*, 131 – 146.

Peter Phan, “Alxeandre de Rhodes’ Mission in Viet Nam, in *Theology and Lived Christianity*, Vol. 45 College Theology Society, 99-118.

Ronald Modras, “Inculturation of Christianity in Asia,” in *Theology and Lived Christianity*, Vol. 45 College Theology Society, 75-98.

Racism and the Church

February 10

Required:

Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission, "The Church and Racism: Toward a More Fraternal Society," *Origins* 18/37 (February 23, 1989): 613 – 626. [See <http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/resources/jpracism.htm>]

Pontifical Council For Justice and Peace, *Contribution to World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, Durbin, August 31-September 7, 2001. [See http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20010829_comunicato-razzismo_en.html]

Abstract Choice:

Jon Nilson, "The Confessions of a White, Racist Catholic Theologian" *Proceedings of the Catholic Theology Society of America* 58 (2003): 64-82.

Jamie T. Phelps, "Communion Ecclesiology and Black Liberation Theology," *Theological Studies* 61 (2000): 672 – 699.

M. Shawn Copeland, "Tradition and the Traditions of African American Catholicism," *Theological Studies* 61 (2000): 632 – 655.

James H. Cone, "The Easy Conscience of America's Churches on Race," in *Call to Action, Spirituality Justice Reprint*, 1-6.

B. Massingale, "James Cone and Recent Catholic Episcopal Teaching on Racism," *Theological Studies* 61 (2000): 700 – 731.

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 Saggat, "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>

Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope – U.S. and Mexican Bishops, 2003

<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

Justice & Evangelization in Africa– Episcopal Conference of Africa & Madagascar, 1981
The Future is Ours – The Bishops of Zambia, 1992

Economic Justice in South Africa – South African Bishops Conference, 1999

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

http://www.catholic.org.au/statements/ju_un50.htm

The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching – Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, 1996 <http://www.osjspm.org/cst/britbish.htm>

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*

http://www.catholic.org.au/statements/ju_un50.htm

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 Claims, Racial Identity and the Census," in *Transforming Race Relations*, 43-101.

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.

Joseph A. Fiorenza, "A Global Microcosm," *America* 181/16 (Nov. 20, 1999).

Robert Schreiter, "Ministry for the Multicultural Church," *ORIGINS* (May 20, 1999).

Synod of Bishops Special Assembly for Oceania, *Jesus Christ and the Peoples of Oceania: Walking His Way, Telling His Truth, and Living His Life*, 1998.

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_24081998_oceania-instrlabor_en.html

Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples

March 2

Required:

United States Catholic Conference, *Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on American Indians* (May 4, 1977).

USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Native American Catholics, "Native American Catholics at the Millennium." <http://www.usccb.org/education/nativeam.pdf> [See course document section of class webpage]

Abstract Choice:

Michael F. Steltenkamp, "Contemporary American Indian Religious Thinking and Its Relationship to the Christianity of Black Elk, Holy Man of the Oglala," in *American Catholic Traditions: Resources for Renewal*, 29 – 52.

"Creation," in Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley, George E. "Tink" Tinker. *A Native American Theology*, 32-51

"Afterword," in Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley, George E. "Tink" Tinker. *A Native American Theology*, 166-180.

Terrance R. Anderson, "Toward a New and More Just Relationship," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 22 (2002): 3-26.

Marilyn J. Legge, "Seeking 'Right Relations': How Should Churches Respond to Aboriginal Voices?", *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 22 (2002): 27-47.

Vine Deloria, "Vision and Community: A Native American Voice," in James Treat, ed. *Native And Christian: Indigenous Voices On Religious Identity In The United States And Canada*, 105-114.

George Tinker, "Spirituality, Native American Personhood, Sovereignty and Solidarity," in James Treat, ed. *Native And Christian: Indigenous Voices On Religious Identity In The United States And Canada*, 115-131.

Maria Therese Archambault, "Native Americans and Evangelization," in James Treat, ed. *Native And Christian: Indigenous Voices On Religious Identity In The United States And Canada*, 132-154.

Kateri Mitchel, "Program Development and Native American Catechesis," in James Treat, ed. *Native And Christian: Indigenous Voices On Religious Identity In The United States And Canada*, 155-162.

John S. Haskel, "The Sacred Circle: Native American Liturgy," in James Treat, ed. *Native And Christian: Indigenous Voices On Religious Identity In The United States And Canada*, 179-183.

Juanita Little, "The Story and Faith Journey of a Native Catechist," in James Treat, ed. *Native And Christian: Indigenous Voices On Religious Identity In The United States And Canada*, 209-218.

Shall We Overcome?

March 9

Required:

Michael K. Duffey, "Racism in the United States: Where Do We Go From Here?," in *Sowing Justice, Reaping Peace: Case Studies of Racial, Religious, and Ethic Healing around the World*, 133 – 157, 201 – 204.

Dawn M. Nothwehr, *Mutuality: A Formal Norm for Christian Social Ethics*, 1 – 95.

[See Course Documents on website]

Abstract Choice:

William O'Neill, "Imagining Otherwise: The Ethics of Social Reconciliation," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 188-199.

Leland T. Saito & Edward J.W. Park, "Multiracial Collaborations and Coalitions," in *Transforming Race Relations*, 395-432.

Angela E. Oh, "Reaching Our Highest Aspirations: The President's Initiative on Race," in *Transforming Race Relations*, 475-502.