

Greetings to students in our Christian Social Justice class starting March 16. It is good to have you aboard as we will have some vital topics and excellent guest speakers that will make this election year even more relevant for you. You will see below the pre-class assignment that's not due until our first class March 16. Please buy the one text book listed below to bring to our first class. Email me at mgable@catholiccincinnati.org if you have any questions. I will email you the complete syllabus about a week before we meet.

Mount St. Joseph University

JCG 255-M7 Christian Social Justice

PRE-ASSIGNMENT: Due at the beginning of the first class, Monday, March 16, 6:30 pm.

(Bring a hard copy of your answers to questions listed below for class discussion & hand in)

Course time: 6:30-9:20pm, Mondays, March 16 - May 4, **2020**.

Instructor Information: Dr. Michael Gable, Phone: 513-263-6680

Email: mgable@catholiccincinnati.org (do NOT use my MSJ email address)

TO NOTE! Please bring this one text book to our first class: ***Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice: Navigating the Path to Peace***, by Daniel G. Groody, from Orbis Books: Maryknoll, NY, 2015 (revised Edition) ISBN # 978-1-62698-1-150-8.

It should be at the MSJ bookstore. It's also available on-line at: Amazon.com.

The full class syllabus will be emailed to you before our first class.

===There are three sections below to complete, A, B and C to discuss in class===

A) Must complete: View these four brief videos on-line listed below that define & explain the principles of Christian Social Justice (CSJ) on YouTube. Then type answers to the following questions. (You may need to copy these website addresses and google them. If you can't find these videos, find similar ones.)

Watch this first introductory video:

[The Biblical Roots of Catholic Social Thought or Teaching](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMYBCy1FyUc) 7:52 minutes at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMYBCy1FyUc>

Now write answers to: "***What are some of the key Bible quotes, stories or messages that are the foundations for developing Christian Social Justice principles or thought?***"

Then watch these 3 consecutive videos at:

[Catholic Social Teaching \(part 1 of 3\) - YouTube](#) by Ed Sirois 7/11/2016

Or, click on each one individually, per below:

Part 1, 8:49 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mhqLPii4CM>

Having viewed this Part 1 video, type answer to: ***"Name the 3 kinds of justice and very briefly describe them?"***

Part 2, 10:42 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJ5Jj5Ukhgk>

Part 3, 6:34 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-N4l8T0m2bE>

Having watched these two videos, type answer, ***"Name the 7 major themes of social justice principles and very briefly describe them"***

Now write a paragraph or two about, ***"What impressed or surprised you about these videos?" Or "Explain which one or two of these principles seem most important to you?"***

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B) Must complete: View any FOUR of these websites listed below from different Christian denominations or organizations about their views/work on Christian Social Justice (CSJ) issues.

TO NOTE! After you view those four, write a few paragraphs about, ***"How are the contents of these websites similar and different from each other? What impressed or challenged you and why?"***

Cincinnati's Sisters of Charity Office of Peace, Justice and Care of Creation: <https://www.srcharitycinti.org/ministries/msj-ministries/opjcc/priority-issues/> then click on some of their priority issues

Catholic Social Action Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/priority-issues/>

Methodist social justice issues: <https://wnccumw.org/social-action/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: <http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages> and note their 13 social messages.

Southern Baptist Convention: <http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/basicbeliefs.asp> Then scroll down to The Christian & the Social Order

Presbyterian USA: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/social-issues/>

Evangelicals for Social Action: <https://www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org/vision-and-mission/>

Sojourners: <https://sojo.net/about/about-sojourners> see "Our Work" then view their 3 ½ minute video.

ICCR, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility: <https://www.iccr.org/about-iccr> for an overview and if time allows, also see, <https://www.iccr.org/iccrs-issues> about their issues

Bread for the Word: <http://www.bread.org/history-mission> then read about their history and mission.

8th Day Center for Justice: www.8thdaycenter.org then click on "About Us" then "Our Work."

Pax Christi USA: <https://paxchristiusa.org/about/our-vision/> and if time permits, see <https://paxchristiusa.org/about/the-four-initiatives/>

Center of Concern: <https://www.coc.org/about-us> then click on their topics.

Remember to write a paragraph or two about: ***How are contents of any 4 of these websites similar and different from each other?" What impressed or challenged you and why?***

[ALSO TO NOTE THE 2 EXTRA CREDIT VIDEOS on Jesuits for Social Justice in El Salvador](#)

a) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWRnX1967f0> 9 minutes

This video was made by University of Scranton students to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs of El Salvador and their companions. The video is comprised of photographs and commentary from University of Scranton students, faculty, and staff who traveled to El Salvador. It was shown at a mass in November of 2009 at Scranton. The six Jesuits and their companions were killed on November 16, 1989 at the Universidad de Centro Americana (UCA) during a civil war that lasted for 12 years.

b) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkFHD34oXwk> 5 minutes. Published on Nov 14, 2018

Fr. José María Tojeira, SJ remembers the martyrdom of six Jesuits at the University of Central America in El Salvador.

Chose 2 questions to reflection and write about for extra credit:

- 1) In a paragraph or two, explain in your own words how you think these Jesuit priests lived out some or all of the Christian Social Justice teachings or principles?
- 2) What would you say were their goals and purposes in their lives that gave them meaning?
- 3) What important lessons could you learn from these that you could or already do to incorporate in your daily routine and goals/purposes for your life?

You could develop this into a longer final paper project.

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C. Must complete: Write a few paragraphs about your personal reflections

The study of theology is about understanding God and the principles given to us to co-create a more just, peaceful and compassionate local and global society...as well as a more verdant world. And it's about finding our own role in building this local, national and global community which includes searching/finding meaning and purpose in our lives. With this course, Mt. St. Joseph University invites us to:

- further develop socially responsible approaches to decision-making,
- grow in leadership skills and to build productive partnerships and,
- advance in personal moral/spiritual/political development.

So chose at least two of the following questions to write about to enable a fruitful first class discussion.

- 1) Where have you see any of these Christian Social Justice (CSJ) principles at work in your own family, friends, church, or organizations with which you belong? Or have there been any particular experiences in your life that have helped you to understand and experience one of these CSJ principles in action?

2) What social/individual values, principals, values, or beliefs are foundational for YOU personally and professionally? How could some of them enable you to become an even more effective citizen, a more compassionate family member and community leader?

3) What questions, personal comments or new insights would do you wish to discuss in this first class, especially based on the readings provided for this pre-assignment?

4) In light of what you've written above and reflecting on your past and current life experience, what gives you meaning at this time in your life? And/or, what seem to be some major goals of your life? How might your purpose or mission of your life become clearer, at least at this time? Why do you think were you placed on this earth?

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