The aim of this course is to explore the concept of the person and the nature of social responsibility through 1) the examination of key texts in philosophy and theology and 2) active engagement in serving the needs of the community through your field placement.

Whereas last semester our discussions centered on the understanding of the person, this semester we will focus our concerns on the relationship between the person and society. In particular we will explore the following questions: What do we owe our neighbor? How do we create a just society? What institutions foster human flourishing? How does our own community succeed, and how does it fail to measure up? Is violence ever justified in fighting oppression? Throughout the course, our theoretical inquiries will be aided and informed by the practical experience you receive in your placements.

This two-semester, twelve-credit course is designed to fulfill the undergraduate requirements in Theology and Philosophy.

**Course Requirements**

1) **Attendance and Class Participation:** Class Participation is a vital element of this course, and you should come to class on time, prepared to discuss the assigned reading material. Unexcused absences will count against your class participation grade, and more than five unexcused absences during the semester will result in the lowering of your final grade. An excused absence is an absence either agreed upon by the instructor ahead of time or excused by a doctor's note after.

2) **Exams:** One midterm exam will be given **Wednesday, March 21**. A final exam will be given on the date scheduled by the administration.

3) **Papers and Quizzes:** Two essays will be assigned in the semester, due (roughly) on the dates noted below. In addition, short quizzes will be given periodically in the first five minutes of class, which will ask basic questions of the text. If you arrive after the quiz has been distributed, you cannot take the quiz.

4) **Reflections:** You will be required to write 1-2 page reflections every other week on topics assigned ahead of time.

**Grade Distribution for this Portion of the Course** (60% of final grade)

- Reflections: 10%
- Essays: 40%
- Class Participation and Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%

**Note Regarding Final Grades:** There will be a strict numerical cutoff for translating grades from a four point scale to letter equivalents, with no rounding up of the GPA. For instance, you will need to obtain at least a 3.67 as a final grade in order to achieve an A-. The exception to this rule is the case in which the class grade is an A and the placement grade is an A-, in which case the final grade will be an A.
**Required Texts**

- *The Bible*
- Michael Sandel, *Justice*
- Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*
- Michael Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*
- Peter Singer, *The Life You Save*
- David Shipler, *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*

**January 18- January 20**
Introduction
*Doing the Truth in Love Chapter 4*
*Gospel of Matthew 19-26*
King, “Transformed Nonconformist”

**January 23-January 27**
*Doing the Truth in Love Chapter 5*
King, “The Death of Evil Upon the Seashore”
Dostoevsky, *The Brother Karamazov*, Chapter 35 “Rebellion” (online)

**January 30-February 3**
Peter Singer, *The Life You Save*

**February 6-February 10**
Peter Singer, *The Life You Save*
King, “On Being a Good Neighbor”
Ayn Rand, “The Ethics of Emergencies” (on reserve)
Ian Parker, “The Gift” (online)

**February 13-February 17**
John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, Chapter 2 (online)
Hollenbach, *The Common Good and Christian Ethics*, pp. 32-42 (on reserve)
Sandel, *Justice*, Chapter 10

**February 20-February 24**
Sandel, *Justice*, Chapters One and Two
John Stuart Mill, *On Utilitarianism Chapter Two* (online)
Sandel, *Justice*, Chapter Six

**February 27-March 2**
John Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, selections (online)
Shipler, *The Working Poor*, Chapter Eight
Sandel, *Justice*, Chapter Three
Nozick, *Anarchy State, and Utopia* (online reserve)

**First Essay Due March 2**

**March 5-March 9: Spring Vacation**
March 12-March 16
Shipler, *The Working Poor*, Chapter Seven
Marx, *Communist Manifesto* (online)
Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts* (online)

March 19-March 23
Shipler, *The Working Poor*, Chapter Three

**March 21: Midterm Exam**
Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus* (online)

March 26-30
Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus* (online)
King, “The Man Who Was a Fool”
“How Should a Christian View Communism?”
Reinhold Niebuhr, Selections (online)
Lebacqz, *Six Theories of Justice*, Chapter Five (on reserve)

**April 5-April 9: Easter Break**

April 11-April 13
Shipler, *The Working Poor*, Chapter Four
King, “The Answer to a Perplexing Question”
“How Loving Your Enemies”
Thich Nhat Hanh, *Selected Writings* (online, reserve)

**April 16: Patriot’s Day – No Classes**

April 18-April 20
Thich Nhat Hanh, *Selected Writings* (online, reserve)
Boff, *Introduction to Liberation Theology* selections (on reserve)

April 23-April 27
Boff, *Introduction to Liberation Theology* selections (on reserve)
Cone, *A Black Theology of Liberation* (on reserve)

**Final Essay Due April 29**

April 30-May 2
Cone, *A Black Theology of Liberation* (on reserve)