

PL/TH 089: Person and Social Responsibility  
Prof. Eileen Sweeney  
Philosophy Department

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This is the second of a two semester, 12 credit course fulfilling all core requirements in Philosophy and Theology. The theme for this semester is community. We will consider accounts of justice which should inform a community, and ask about what kinds of obligations individuals have to communities.

This course consists of two components, the classroom and the field. 60% of your grade for the semester will be the result of your classwork and 40% from your community service. Failure in either the academic or service portions of the class will result in failure for the whole 6 credits.

Requirements:

Class/ discussion group attendance and participation 15%  
Institutional analysis 15%  
Two tests 20% each  
Final exam 30%

Required Texts:

Albert Camus, The Plague  
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (selections)  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Essential Rousseau  
John Rawls, from A Theory of Justice (handout)  
Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America  
The New Oxford Annotated Bible  
Michael Walzer, Exodus and Revolution  
N. T. Wright and Marcus Borg, The Meaning of Jesus  
Walter Wink, The Powers That Be  
James H. Cone, Martin and Malcolm and America  
Hannah Arendt, The Human Condition

Schedule of Readings:

Jan 15: Introduction  
Jan 17: Camus, The Plague, Part I  
Jan 22: Camus, The Plague, Part II  
Jan 24: Camus, The Plague, Part III  
Jan 29: Camus, The Plague, Part IV  
Jan 31: Camus, The Plague, Part V  
Feb 5: Hobbes, Leviathan (handout)

Feb 7: Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, pp. 146-172

Feb 12: Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, pp. 173-201

Feb 14: Rawls, A Theory of Justice (handout)

Feb 19: Reply Rawls (handout)

Feb 21: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed pp. 1-119

Feb 26: Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed pp. 121-221

Feb 28: EXAM

Mar 4-6: Spring break

Mar 11: Exodus, ch 1-15; Walzer 19-70

Mar 13: Exodus, 19-24; Deuteronomy, 5-11

Mar 18: Walzer, 73-149; Amos

Mar 20: HOLY THURSDAY

Mar 25: Luke, ch. 1-4; Borg and Wright, Meaning of Jesus, 3-30; 170-188

Mar 27: Luke, ch 5-12; Borg and Wright, Meaning of Jesus, 31-52

Apr 1: Luke, ch 13-21, Borg and Wright, Meaning of Jesus, 53-78

Apr 3: Luke, ch 22-24, Borg and Wright, Meaning of Jesus, 79-110

Apr 8: Wink, The Powers that Be

Apr 10: Wink, The Powers that Be

Apr 15: EXAM

Apr 17: Cone, Martin and Malcolm ch 3-5

Apr 22: Cone, Martin and Malcolm ch 6-8

Apr 24: Arendt, The Human Condition, Prologue, ch. 1

Apr 29: Arendt, The Human Condition, ch 5, sec. 24-34

May 1: Discussion, review

May 6: Take-home Exam Due

