

THEO 251: Faith Doing Justice

Winter 2022

Draft syllabus as of Sept 2021

Instructor: Rachel Bundang, PhD
Email: rbundang@scu.edu (pending)
Text: via Remind (instructions TBA)
Office hours: By appointment, via Zoom
Class meetings: Wednesday evenings, 6 - 9 pm; location TBA

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Situated at the intersection of ethics and spirituality, this course will explore the witness of women and men whose work for social justice grew out of their faith commitments. Sample figures may include: Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Abraham Heschel, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, and others.

This initial version of the syllabus is intended to give students basic information on the course. More detailed information about the readings will be added as information becomes available, and a live update version of the syllabus will be posted in Camino.

Each class will consider one or two figures. Background material will come from either the Raboteau text (listed below) or the professor. Then, there will be a selected reading from the author being considered, with discussions and lecture to follow.

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COURSE TEXTS:

- James Martin, *My Life with the Saints*, 10th anniversary ed. (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2016), ISBN: 9780829444520.
- Albert J. Raboteau, *American Prophets: Seven Religious Radicals and Their Struggle for Social and Political Justice* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2016), ISBN: 9780691164304.
- Other texts and materials as posted on Camino.

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WRITING RESOURCES:

Through the SCU library, you have access to two important databases that will be useful to you in this class and through your studies:

- For citations: This link will get you to the [Citation Quick Guide of *The Chicago Manual of Style*](#). (To see it, you must log in with your SCU username and password, as if you are logging into your school email or Camino.) This should cover most instances of footnoting you may need for class writing assignments. Citations matter because you should take care to not commit plagiarism, even if unintentional.
- For use of scripture: when you bring biblical texts into your writing, make sure you are using correct abbreviations and format:
 - [Old Testament/Hebrew Bible list here](#).
 - [New Testament list here](#).
 - In addition, through the SCU library website, you have access to the [Oxford Biblical Studies Online](#). (To see it, you must log in with your SCU username and password, as if you are logging into your school email or Camino). It offers several different translations, some commentaries and concordances, maps, timelines, and scholarly articles that can be useful to you. I have found this particular resource useful not just for research papers and talks but also doing background for homilies and reflections.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: [update]

Santa Clara University insists on honesty and integrity from all members of its community. The standards of the University preclude any form of cheating, plagiarism, forgery of signatures, and falsification of data. A student who commits any offense against academic honesty and integrity may receive a failing grade without a possibility of withdrawal. An offense may also dictate suspension or dismissal from the University.

CAMINO HELP:

As you may know, each professor may set up and use Camino differently. I can answer basic questions as to how we will use Camino in this course. For more technical questions, consult the Camino help guides within the site; or contact [live Camino support](#) on campus by phone (408.551.3572) or email (caminosupport@scu.edu), or make a Zoom appointment.

ZOOM ACCESS: [info pending]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Participation in weekly discussions on Camino through posts responding to prompts, and engaging peer comments
- Participation in live discussions online and in face-to-face classes
- Lead class discussion at least once during the quarter.
- Midterm reflection-- prompts TBD
- Final paper or project-- prompts and/or instructions TBD

PRIOR TO FIRST CLASS MEETING:

- Fill out Google form to provide me some background info on yourself. *[I will post this in Camino once the course page has been activated. Check back in December.]*
- Set up Remind.com account so that we can communicate by text. *[Instructions forthcoming, to be posted on Camino.]*
- Set up Kanopy account through the SCU library website. Once you have done this, you may stream videos within your browser or use Kanopy's smartphone/tablet app.

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WORKING SCHEDULE:

The list of saints covered is subject to change, depending on student input. If there are any figures you wish to suggest, please email me at rbundang@scu.edu with a brief explanation or proposal for consideration.

The categories proposed below are not an exhaustive list, let alone the only ways to think about sainthood in the Christian tradition. This is to get you thinking creatively about how we understand holiness, goodness, and right living, whether historically or for the present and future.

Supplemental materials (e.g. recordings, images, obituaries/excerpts from biographies, and other resources) and optional readings and will be posted directly into Camino as they become available.

WEEK 1: Wed 1/5, The theo-ethical and spiritual functions and meanings of memory IN SESSION:

- HOUSEKEEPING:
 - Names & faces!
 - Syllabus review, course expectations
 - Tech help (if needed)
 - Adjust meeting schedule for the quarter (if needed)
- Case study: Screening and discussion of documentary *Obit* (2017)

HOMEWORK (always due the following class):

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 2: Wed 1/12, "Ur fave is problematic," part 1-- What do we expect of our saints?

IN CLASS: What do we expect of our saints?

- Picking up on discussion threads of *Obit*
- Case study: the canonization of Junipero Serra

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 3: Wed 1/19, Modern martyrs and prophets

IN CLASS: Case studies: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Oscar Romero

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 4: Wed 1/26, The healer

IN CLASS: Case studies: Francis of Assisi and Mother Teresa

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 5: Wed 2/2, The visionary/contemplative

IN CLASS: Case studies: Ignatius of Loyola and Thomas Merton

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 6: Wed 2/9, Gendered holiness

IN CLASS: Case studies: Dorothy Day and Hildegard of Bingen

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion
- TENTATIVE: Midterm reflection paper— prompts TBD

WEEK 7: Wed 2/16, The bridge-builder

IN CLASS: Case studies: Abraham Joshua Heschel and Howard Thurman

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 8: Wed 2/23, “As the Church has always taught...”-- Saints as proxies for contesting tradition

**** This session is likely via Zoom-- details TBA*

IN SESSION: Case studies: John XXIII and JP II

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 9, Wed 3/2, “Ur fave is problematic,” part 2-- Evolving contexts and perspectives

IN CLASS: Case study: Martin Luther King, Jr.

HOMEWORK:

- [Readings TBD]
- Camino discussion

WEEK 10, Wed 3/9: Final presentations