

PEACE AND JUSTICE DROMANTINE

Module Information

Content

The module aims to consider the basic concepts, principles and models of justice and peace-building and their application to specific sectarian/ethnic conflicts and situations of injustice (as well as to everyday life). It will explore key local and worldwide affairs to create a theological understanding of the complex dynamics involved in peace-building, reconciliation and the work of justice. The course seeks to emphasise the practical significance of these areas of knowledge, relating them to real situations through theological reflection. Deliberation will be given both to the role of individuals as well as Christian churches in pursuing justice, fostering reconciliation and building peace.

Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of varying approaches to peace-building and justice
- An ability to engage in theological reflection on the dynamics of peace and justice in Ireland and elsewhere
- An ability to evaluate and interpret the relevant concepts and models of peace-building and reconciliation for use in practical situations
- An insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the churches' role in the promotion of social justice and reconciliation

Teaching Sessions

Commencing 2nd November 2009

7.30 to 9.30PM Mondays – Dromantine Conference and Retreat Centre

Course Outline

1. Course Overview/Expectations and The Nature of Conflict - 2nd November

Explanation of requirements, expectations and assessment.

Conflict as an integral part of human relationships.

Seeing conflict as an opportunity for transformation.

Suggested Reading

Matthew 5-7

Lederach, John Paul. *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation: Clear articulation of the guiding principles by a pioneer in the field.* pp. 3-22

King, Martin Luther Jr. *Strength to Love.* pp. 146-154

Scott Boldt

2. Benign Apartheid and

The Roots of Sectarianism in Ireland - 9th November

An investigation of demographic trends, values and practices that contribute to separateness in Northern Ireland and an analysis of theological and socio-cultural issues related to sectarianism in Ireland.

*How do my personal decisions and choices counter or contribute to sectarianism?
How does my personal experience affect my understanding and telling of history?*

Suggested Reading

Genesis 10:18-27; Acts 17:22-31

Liechty, Joe and Clegg, Cecilia. *Moving Beyond Sectarianism: Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*. pp. 67-101 and 195-204

Volf, Miroslav. *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness and Reconciliation*. pp. 64-79 and 79-98

Handout

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3. Building Peace - 16th November

An exploration of the conditions and practices that foster and maintain peace.

What do we do if we have peace?

Suggested Reading

Romans 12

Lederach. *Conflict Transformation*. pp. 14-22

Lederach. *Building Peace*. pp. 32-61 and 87-97

Venter, Alexander. *Doing Reconciliation*. pp. 136-138 and 227-232

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4. The Theology of Forgiveness 23rd November

An overview of key Biblical passages relating to forgiveness; considering forgiveness as an action and a process.

Is forgiveness a gift or a decision?

Suggested Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Galatians: 3:26-29

King. *Strength to Love*. pp. 49-57

Venter. *Doing Reconciliation*. pp. 163-186

Volf. *Exclusion and Embrace*. pp. 119-140

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5. Global Justice: A Liberationist Perspective 30th November

- The development of Liberation Theology
- Key themes of Liberation Theology
- The Preferential Option for the Poor

Select Reading:

Boff, Leonardo and Boff, Clodovis. *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Translated by Paul Burns, Tunbridge Wells: Burns & Oates, 1987.

Chopp, Rebecca S. and Ethna Regan. "Latin American Liberation Theology", in David Ford with Rachel Muers, eds. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology Since 1918*, 3rd ed., Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, 469-84.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*, 15th anniversary edition. Translated by Caridad Inda and John Eagleson, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988. (Guided reading questions will be provided for select chapters).

Rowland, Christopher, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Liberation Theology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. (Select chapters will be recommended)

Sobrino, Jon. *The Principle of Mercy: Taking the Crucified People from the Cross*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1994.

_____. *The Eye of the Needle: No Salvation Outside the Poor: A Utopian-Prophetic Essay*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 2008.

Tamez, Elsa. *Through Her Eyes: Women's Theology from Latin America*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.

_____. *The Amnesty of Grace: Justification by Faith from a Latin American Perspective*, trans. Sharon H. Ringe. Wipf and Stock, 2002.

Ethna Regan

6. The Complexity of Justice and Peace 7th December

- Theories of Justice: competing perspectives?
- The teaching of the Churches on Justice:
 - (a) Modern Catholic Social Teaching
 - (b) The World Council of Churches
- Working together for Justice and Peace: Irish ecumenical initiatives

Select Reading:

Lebacqz, Karen. *Six Theories of Justice: Perspectives from Philosophical and Theological Ethics*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1987.

Merkle, Judith. *From the Heart of the Church: The Catholic Social Tradition* Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier, 2004.

MsHana, Rogate R. *Wealth Creation and Justice: The World Council of Churches' Encounters with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2004.

Williams, Rowan. "Renewing the Face of the Earth: Human Responsibility and the Environment". *The Ebor Lecture*, March 2009. Available online at www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/2443n [accessed October 28, 2009].

Ethna Regan and Scott Boldt

KEY TEXTS

Boff, Leonardo and Boff, Clodovis. *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Translated by Paul Burns, Tunbridge Wells: Burns & Oates, 1987.

Chopp, Rebecca S. and Ethna Regan. "Latin American Liberation Theology", in David Ford with Rachel Muers, eds. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology Since 1918*, 3rd ed., Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp. 469-84.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo "The task and content of liberation theology", in Christopher Rowland, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Liberation Theology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp. 19-38.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*, 15th anniversary edition. Translated by Caridad Inda and John Eagleson, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988. (Guided reading questions will be provided for select chapters)

King Jr., Martin Luther. *Strength to Love*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 2004.

Lederach, J.P. *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington: United States Institute of Peace, 2002.

Lebacqz, Karen. *Six Theories of Justice: Perspectives from Philosophical and Theological Ethics*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1987.

Lederach, J.P. *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation: Clear articulation of the guiding principles by a pioneer in the field*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2003.

Liechty, J. and Clegg, C. *Moving Beyond Sectarianism: Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*. Dublin: Columba Press, 2001.

Merkle, Judith. *From the Heart of the Church: The Catholic Social Tradition*. Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier, 2004.

MsHana, Rogate R. *Wealth Creation and Justice: The World Council of Churches' Encounters with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2004.

Rowland, Christopher, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Liberation Theology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. (Select chapters will be recommended)

Sobrino, Jon. *The Principle of Mercy: Taking the Crucified People from the Cross*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1994.

_____. *The Eye of the Needle: No Salvation Outside the Poor: A Utopian-Prophetic Essay*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 2008.

Tamez, Elsa. *Through Her Eyes: Women's Theology from Latin America*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.

_____. *The Amnesty of Grace: Justification by Faith from a Latin American Perspective*, trans. Sharon H. Ringe. Wipf and Stock, 2002.

Venter, Alexander. *Doing Reconciliation: Racism, Reconciliation and Transformation in the Church and World*. Cape Town: Vineyard International Publishing, 2004.

Volf, Miroslav. *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness and Reconciliation*. Nashville: Abington Press, 1996.

Recommended Reading and Electronic Research Sites

Arnold, C.J. *The Lost Art of Forgiveness: Stories of Healing from the Cancer of Bitterness*. Farmington, PA: Plough, 1998.

Comblin, Jose. *Called for Freedom: The Changing Context of Liberation Theology*. Translated by Phillip Berryman, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.

Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano. Second General Conference of Latin American Bishops, Medellín: *The Church in the Present-Day Transformation of Latin America in the Light of the Council, II: Conclusions*. Washington, DC (Secretariat for Latin America, National Conference of Bishops: 3rd Edition), 1979.

De Gruchy, John W. *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice*. London: SCM Press Ltd., 2002.

Dixon, Paul. *Northern Ireland: The Politics of War and Peace*. Hampshire: Palgrave, 2001.

Dorr, Donal. *Option for the Poor: A Hundred Years of Catholic Social Teaching*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.

Dussel, Enrique, ed., *The Church in Latin America 1492-1992*. Tunbridge Wells and Maryknoll, NY: Burns & Oates and Orbis Books, 1992.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*. Translated by Matthew J. O'Connell, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1987.

Holsopple, M.Y., Krall, R.E. and Rittman, S.W. *Building Peace : Overcoming Violence in Communities*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2004.

King Jr., Martin Luther. ed. James Washington. *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.* San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1986.

McCaughey, Terence. *Memory and Redemption: Church, Politics and Prophetic Theology in Ireland*. Dublin: Gill and McMillan, 1993.

Meredith, Martin. *Coming to Terms: South Africa's Search for the Truth*. Oxford: Public Affairs, 2001.

Muller-Fahrenholz, G. *The Art of Forgiveness: Theological Reflections on Healing and Reconciliation*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1996.

Nouwen, Henri. *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1994.

Petrella, Ivan. *The Future of Liberation Theology: An Argument and Manifesto*. London: SCM Press, 2006.

———. ed. *Latin American Liberation Theology: The Next Generation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2005.

Rowland, Christopher and Corner, Mark. *Liberating Exegesis: The Challenge of Liberation Theology to Biblical Studies*. London: SPCK, 1990.

Ruane, Joseph and Todd, Jennifer. *The Dynamics of Conflict in Northern Ireland: Power, Conflict and Emancipation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Sacks, Jonathan. *To Heal a Fractured World: The Ethics of Responsibility*. London and New York: Continuum, 2005.

Tombs, D. and Liechty, J. eds. *Explorations in Reconciliation: New Directions in Theology*. Burlington VT: Ashgate, 2006.

www.cain.ulst.ac.uk CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet)

www.community-relations.org.uk Community Relations Council

www.conflictresearch.org.uk Institute for Conflict Research

www.democraticdialogue.org Democratic Dialogue

www.embraceni.org EMBRACE

www.evangelicalsforhumanrights.org Evangelical Declaration Against Torture (2007).

www.incore.ulst.ac.uk INCORE (Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity)

www.innatenonviolence.org Irish Network for Non-Violent Action, Training and Education

www.oikoumene.org/ WCC (The World Council of Churches)

www.vatican.va/ Vatican website on which can be found all the papal and conciliar documents on Justice and Peace