

**Course Objective:** To explore the process of theological reflection and the method of social analysis as means of interpreting and expanding the community-based learning of the SSLP.

**BEFORE THE SSLP:**

**Three Mandatory Evening Sessions:**

April 12 or 13 – Introduction to Poverty Studies

April 19 or 20 – Catholic Social Thought

April 26 or 27 - Theological Reflection

**Readings:** Read the articles on Concourse about the population with whom you will work this summer.

**Writing Assignment:** Write a one page response to these articles and conclude with your hopes and goals for the summer.

**WEEK 1: Theological Reflection**

**Readings:**

Clemens Sedmak, Introduction, "Waking Up" in *Doing Local Theology*.

Patricia O'Connell Killen and John De Beer, "Searching for a Way to be Faithful," in *The Art of Theological Reflection*.

Michael Himes, et. al., Chapter 1, "Exploring the Mystery of God in Relationships" in *Doing the Truth in Love*.

National Council of Teachers of English, "Guideline for Gender-Fair Use of Language"

**Writing Assignments:**

1. Write an account of your initial impressions of your site and the people with whom you will work following the Method of Reflection which follows the syllabus in this course packet.
2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. After completing the readings, what does it mean to you to "do theology"? Or in what ways are you open to the "standpoint of exploration"? Do you agree or disagree with the perspectives of the authors. Explain why, making at least two specific references to the readings, noting the author and the page number.

**WEEK 2: The Impact of Images of God on Experience**

**Readings:**

McNeill, Morrison and Nouwen, Introduction and Chapters 1,2,3 in *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*.

Elizabeth Johnson, "Introduction: To Speak Rightly About God," in *She Who Is*.

Dan Buchanan and Amy Carr, "Called to the Everyday."

**Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.

2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. In response to the readings, what do you believe or not believe about God? In what ways do the authors' ideas of God resonate with or challenge your image of God?

### **WEEK 3: The Call to Service and Justice**

#### **Readings:**

McNeill, Morrison and Nouwen, Chapter 5 "Displacement" in *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*.

Michael Himes, et.al., Chapter 4 "Responding to God's Love: Compassionate Service" and Chapter 7 "Sacramental Vision" in *Doing the Truth in Love*.

Rachel Naomi Remen, MD, "Helping, Fixing or Serving?" Shambhala Sun.

Clemens Sedmak, Chapter 1 "Walking, Talking, Doing Theology" in *Doing Local Theology*.

#### **Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.
2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. . In response to the readings, in what ways have you experienced displacement in the SSLP? How are you called to service and justice? Explain, making at least two specific references to the readings, noting the author and the page number.

### **WEEK 4: Social Analysis**

#### **Readings:**

Peter Henriot and Joe Holland, "Social Analysis: Tool of Pastoral Action," in *Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice*.

The Two Feet of Christian Service.

Melody Gonzalez '05, Senior Thesis on Migrant Farm Workers.

#### **Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.
2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. . In response to the readings, what social issues arise from your experience at the SSLP site? In what ways do these issues relate to the readings? Make at least two specific references to the readings, noting the author and the page number.

**SUBMIT YOUR FIRST FOUR WEEKS OF JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS ELECTRONICALLY OR BY GROUND MAIL**

## **WEEK 5: Race and Poverty**

### **Readings:**

Margaret Pfeil, "Correlating Social Sin and Social Reconciliation: Racism as a Test Case."

Sylvia Metzler, "A Lenten Meditation."

Patricia Williams, "Of Race and Risk," *The Nation*, December 29, 1997.

Shipler, "Subtle vs. Overt Racism," *The Washington Spectator*, volume 24, No.6.

"How to Respond to Racist Remarks Effectively," St. Vincent's Church.

Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondence through Work in Women's Studies" in Delgado and Stefancic, *Critical White Studies*.

Family Care Foundation, "If the World Were a Village of 100 People," 2005.

### **Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.
2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. In response to the readings, raise two questions about the dynamics of race and privilege from your SSLP experience or from the readings. In what ways are you responding to the questions? Make specific references to the readings, noting the author and page number.

## **WEEK 6: Catholic Social Thought – Building Justice in the World**

### **Readings:**

Center for Social Concerns, "The Principles of Catholic Social Thought"

World Synod of Bishops, "Justice in the World," 1971.

Charles Murphy, "Action for Justice as Constitutive of the Preaching of the Gospel: What Did the 1971 Synod Mean?" *Theological Studies* 44 (1983).

Philip Land, S.J., "Theology of Church Action for Justice" An Overview, 1975.

### **Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.
2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. In what ways do you observe "action on behalf of justice ... as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel"? What connections do you see between your SSLP experience and Catholic social thought? Make at least two specific references to the readings, noting the author and page number.

## **WEEK 7: Suffering and Restorative Justice**

### **Readings:**

Howard Zerr, "Restorative Principles," in *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*.

Henri Nouwen, "Ministry to a Hopeless Individual" in *Ministry and Spirituality*.

Michael Himes, et.al., Chapter 5 "Vulnerability: Suffering the Mystery" in *Doing the Truth in Love*.

**Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.
2. Describe and analyze a second encounter or event using the Method of Reflection. In response to the readings, respond to one of the following:
  - a. In what ways could Zerr's principles of restorative justice be applied to situations you have encountered?
  - b. What suffering do you witness at your site related to personal issues or illness? Where do you find God in this experience?

Make at least two specific references to the readings, noting the author and page number.

**WEEK 8: Continuing the Journey****Readings:**

Michael Himes, et.al, Chapter 3 "The Journey of Restlessness" and Chapter 6, "Conversing about the Mystery" in *Doing the Truth in Love*.

David Hollenbach, "Courage and Patience: Education for Staying Power in the Pursuit of Justice" in *Justice, Peace and Human Rights*.

John Neafsey, Chapter 1, "Introduction: Personal Vocation and Social Conscience" in *A Sacred Voice is Calling*.

**Writing Assignments:**

1. Using the Method of Reflection, describe and analyze an encounter or event from your experience.
2. In response to the readings, what have you learned about restlessness and patience in the struggle for social change? Make at least two specific references to the readings, noting the author and page number.  
Also, as you reflect on the SSLP as a whole, what impact has it had on you and what insights and perspectives have you gained? How will you act upon what you have learned?

**RETURNING TO CAMPUS:**

**AUGUST 22:** The second four weeks of reflections and the Final Paper are due – submit them electronically and bring 2 copies to the SSLP Celebration 11 a.m. at the Center for Social Concerns in Geddes Hall.

Agenda for the gathering:

- Turn in 2 copies of your paper
- Confirm your follow-up requirement
- Receive SSLP T-shirt
- Take a group picture on the steps of Bond Hall
- Conduct the AmeriCorps exit session

\*For those who are studying abroad in the fall, submit your papers online by August 22. You will fulfill the course requirements of facilitated small group discussion when you return to campus.

**AUGUST 28:** SSLP Follow-up Workshop 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Center for Social Concerns.  
This is one of the follow-up options.

**AUGUST 29 – SEPT. 2:** Facilitated small group discussions begin this week. This is the other choice of follow-up options.

**EARLY SEPTEMBER** – You will be invited to attend the Bernie Clark annual lecture on the CST theme of Building Justice in the World. This is recommended but not required.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSING THE COURSE**

- Participate in the three Orientation Sessions and eight consecutive weeks of service.
- Turn in all 17 assignments and the final paper.
- Integrate quotations from the readings in the assignments and final paper as noted in the guidelines.
- Attend the follow-up workshop, three facilitated discussion sessions, or take Professor Margaret Pfeil's course, Discipleship, THEO 20625.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

In both your journal entries and in your final paper, change the names of the people you write about for confidentiality reasons. Your journal will be read by only one other person, Andrea or a graduate student in the summer and your small group facilitator in the fall. Your final paper needs to be written in a more public voice because you need to send a copy to your site supervisor and club contact person.

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