COURSE PROFILE

Course No: FC 5301 (2429) CG713 (2931)

Course Title: FAITH AND DOMINANT AMERICAN CULTURE

Semester: Fall 2014 (Aug. 25 – Dec. 8, 2014: Mon, 5:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.)
UST Main Campus, Malloy Hall 020

Instructor: DONALD S. NESTI, CSSp
713-942-5069 (nesti@stthom.edu)

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
The greatest challenge of the Church in America is to assist all the Baptized, The People of God, to live lives that reflect the relationship between their dual citizenships – as Catholics and as Americans. To do so, we must enter into a New Evangelization. This course will seek to assist students in developing interpretative skills which will permit them to appreciate the strengths and challenges of the dominant American way of life, both in its philosophical foundations and its practical implications: its vision, its values, representative character types, institutions, expected patterns of behavior and symbols in relation to a Catholic Christian worldview. Throughout the course, students will be involved in a reflective, participative process necessary in seeking the common good through the incarnation of the Gospel in the American context as they live life in the Spirit.

2. TOPICAL OUTLINE

2.1 Faith, Culture, Faithful Citizen
2.2 The Roots of the American Way of Life: Introduction to Five Cities
2.3 Genius of Christianity; Life of Middle Ages; Reformers’ Drum
2.4 Constitution of Church and State; Salutary Neglect; English Eighteenth-Century Intelects
2.5 Declaration and Constitution
2.6 The American Worldview and its Fruits: Primacy of the Individual over Community; Pursuit of Happiness, the historical conversation; culture and character; Three Traditions – Three Languages
2.7 Private Life
2.8 Public Life
2.9 Expanding the Vision: Contrasts and building blocks; bringing the Catholic Voice to the conversation; Human Person:
   • Individualism vs Individuality in Community
   • Authority vs Authorship
   • Truth and Consequences
   • Immediacy vs Mediatio
2.10 Pursuit of Happiness: Life, Liberty
   • Success
   • Freedom
   • Justice
2.11 Foundations of Society
- Covenant vs Contract
- Lifestyle Enclaves vs Community
- Church vs Church
- Institutions vs Institutions

2.12 The Participative Life
- Democratic Republic
- Integrating personal and civic life
- Living personal, civic, and political life
- Practicing civic (public) and political life
  - *Living in a Company of Strangers*
  - Ten Expectations

2.13 Synthesis
- Bringing the Catholic Voice to the American Dream
- Participation in the New Evangelization
- Being and Becoming American Catholics

2.14 Integration

2.15 Readings Assigned for each Class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Faith</td>
<td><em>Dei Verbum</em> – response to mystery of God</td>
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<td>Culture – aspects of culture</td>
<td><em>Lumen Gentium</em> – receiving faith from and living faith</td>
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<td>Worldview: founded on perceptions of God, person and world</td>
<td>in community</td>
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<td>Faithful Citizen-What is citizenship?</td>
<td><em>Bishops Statement on Faithful Citizen</em></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>The Roots of the American Way of Life: Intro to Five Cities</td>
<td><em>Roots of American Order</em>, Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<td>- Create order to bring about freedom and justice: how to live in society;</td>
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<td>right relationship with God and community</td>
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<td>- Moral law – a given in the minds of founders and prophets</td>
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<td>- Greek world</td>
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<td>- virtue and power – the Roman Tension</td>
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| 3  | Sept. 15 | • Genius of Christianity  
• Light of Middle Ages  
• Reformers’ Drum | *Roots of American Order*, Ch. 5, 6, 7 |
| 4  | Sept. 22 | • Constitution of Church and State  
• Salutary Neglect  
• English Eighteenth-Century Intellecst | *Roots of American Order*, Ch. 8, 9, 10 |
| 5  | Sept. 29 | Declaration and Constitution | *Roots of American Order*, Ch. 11  
Declaration of Independence  
Constitution of the United States |
| 6  | Oct. 6  | • The American Worldview and its Fruits:  
Primacy of the Individual over Community  
• Pursuit of Happiness, the historical conversation  
• Culture and character  
• Three Traditions – Three Languages | *Habits of the Heart*, Intro, Ch. 1, 2 |
| Oct. 13 | WINTER BREAK |    |    |
| 7  | Oct. 20 | Private Life | *Habits of the Heart*, Ch. 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 8  | Oct. 27 | Public Life | *Habits of the Heart*, Ch. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 |
| 9  | Nov. 3  | Expanding the Vision  
Contrasts and building blocks;  
Bringing the Catholic Voice to the conversation;  
Human person:  
• Individualism vs Individuality in Community  
• Authority vs Authorship  
• Truth and Consequences  
• Immediacy vs Mediation |    |
| 10 | Nov. 10 | Pursuit of Happiness: Life, Liberty  
• Success  
• Freedom  
• Justice |    |
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Foundations of Society</td>
<td>Two Columns</td>
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<td>• Covenant vs Contract</td>
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<td>• Lifestyle Enclaves vs Community</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>The Participative Life</td>
<td>Company of Strangers</td>
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<td>• Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>• Ten Expectations</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Synthesis Discussion</td>
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<td>• Bringing the Catholic Voice to the American Dream</td>
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<td>• Being and Becoming American Catholics</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Integration: Questions for Exam and Discussion</td>
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3. **PEDAGOGICAL METHOD**
   Lecture by professor; presentations by students on assigned matter, followed by discussion. In each segment of the lectures, students will be asked to share their reflections of the material in light of their own experience.

4. **REQUIREMENTS**

4.1 Regular, punctual attendance and preparation for class. Role will be taken at each class session. With the exception of emergencies, students must inform the professor of their absence prior to the class.

4.2 Mid-term synthesis paper of course to date. Paper should be seven (7) pages, double-spaced, New Times Roman 12 font, one-inch margins and header at top with name, course #, and date. **Due at the beginning of class on October 20, 2014.**

   Any delay in submission of papers without express permission from the professor prior to the due date of the paper, will result in an automatic reduction of one letter grade from the determined grade of the paper.

4.3 Final exam: Essay questions. **(Date: TBD)**
5. **GRADING**
Final grade for the course will be determined on the basis of the following:
- (30%) - Class attendance and quality of participation
- (30%) - Mid-term synthesis paper
- (40%) - Final examination

6. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** *(University of St. Thomas Policies & Procedures, Student Handbook, Section 3.)*

1. **Definition**
Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
- Cheating on an examination or test, for example by copying from another’s paper or by using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
- Plagiarism, which one represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
- Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student even though one’s own work is not directly affected;
- Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.

2. **Penalty**
The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the professor, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of an “F” for the course.

7. **REQUIRED READINGS**

8. **SUPPLEMENTAL READING**

9. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


McCullough, David. *1776.* Simon & Schuster, 2005


