



St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School

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Theology IV - Catholic Social Teaching (Fall) & Christian Vocations (Spring) Course Syllabus 2016-2017

Semester 1: "Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society"

This course will introduce students to the Church's social teaching. Students will learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission and how they can live as servant leaders in the world.

Semester 2: "Responding to the Call of Jesus"

This course will help students understand the vocation of life: how Jesus Christ calls us to live. In this course, students are taught how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course is structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students will learn what it means to live for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

As a course in theology, our course will seek to engage both the mind and the hearts of students. In the words of Bl. Basil Moreau, "We want to let our students try their learning in the world and so make prayers of their education." As such, the course will prayerfully and thoughtfully explore Scripture, Tradition, and our student's own experience. The goals of this course then include not only gaining a working academic knowledge of the topics listed above, but more importantly, developing the capacity to engage this knowledge in order to grow in relationship and understanding of our God who has revealed His love through His Incarnate Son and the mystery of the Church.

Required Texts and Supplies

Each student is expected to come prepared for every class by bringing the required texts and materials with them. Students' preparedness will be periodically checked and considered a part of the student's participation grade.

- *Catholic Social Teaching: Christian Life in Society* – St. Mary's Press, ISBN: 9781599820774
- *Theology of the Body for Beginners: A Basic Introduction to Pope John Paul II's Sexual Revolution, Revised Edition* - Ascension Press, ISBN: 9781934217856
- *The Catholic Bible, Revised Edition* (NABRE), available at usccb.org/bible
- Students will keep a *Theology notebook or binder*. This notebook will be used to take notes and for certain written exercises. While many students may choose to take daily notes electronically, there will also be times when they will be expected to do activities for which they will need lined paper.
- Personal electronic device as specified by school BYOD Policies and headphones.

Other Materials Used in Class

Throughout the year additional resources will be utilized in class, including the following videos:

The Good Lie (2014) PG-13

Introduction to the Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life (Christopher West lecture series)

The Truman Show (1998) PG

Course Objectives

- To develop students' knowledge and appreciation of the Church's social teachings.
- To develop student's knowledge and understanding of Christian vocations.
- To facilitate students' encounter with Jesus Christ and their understanding of their own vocational call.
- To develop critical thinking skills and a Catholic vision to help students engage their faith with full mind and heart.
- To provide an environment for exploration, sharing, and deepening of faith.
- To allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and in our hearts.

Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones are not permitted to be out in the classroom, unless for a formal class activity. Students will be allowed to use their school approved electronic devices during class for guided exercises as directed by the instructor. If any other program or website is opened on the device during class, the device will be taken up. If any device is found to be on any network (cell or wireless) other than "Savio Student", the device will be taken up and not returned until the end of the school day.

Google Classroom

Each Theology IV student will be required to join the class Catholic Social Teaching in Google Classroom using the class code below, according to their block. Google Classroom will be used to assign homework, daily assignments, projects and tests. Students will also use Google Classroom to access class notes and videos. All assignments will also be posted in RenWeb but Google Classroom is where you will find the content for the assignment.

Class Codes:

B Block - 79q57g6

D Block - yttry5

G Block - 3isnc8

C Block - vb3shw

E Block - wd5xvb

Course Content

Catholic Social Teaching (Fall)	Christian Vocations (Spring)
Foundations of Social Justice in Scripture and Tradition Understanding CST in the Modern Age Creating A Just Society Respecting Human Life and Dignity Promoting Peace Examining Economic Justice Exploring Environmental Justice Living Justly Development of Senior Service Project	Living Our Christian Vocation: God's Call and Our Response The Essential Vocation of the Laity & the Single Life The Theology of the Body The Theology of Christian Marriage The Theology of Holy Orders Understanding Consecrated Life Discerning God's Will Development of Senior Service Project

Senior Service Project

The St. Dominic Savio Senior Project is an opportunity for the senior class to be servant leaders through work at a social service agency or by investigating a prospective career before graduating from St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School. As members of the Catholic community, seniors complete the Senior Project in order to learn about the needs of the greater world, gain life experience in working with others, and recognize Gospel values in the workplace. With the support of the Theology Department and a Faculty Advisor students will design and organize their own project, and will serve at least 15 hours at their project site. Completion of the project is a graduation requirement. More information will be given to students in class at the beginning of the year.

Classroom Values

Loving Respect: Each class begins with prayer. We are a school committed to following the example of Christ, especially the call to live as “servant leaders”. We believe a servant leader acts always “in a loving and selfless manner.” It is vital to maintain an atmosphere of loving respect in order for students to confidently participate in learning and to develop as servant leaders in the image of Christ. Any form of disrespect will not be tolerated.

Any person who shows a lack of respect in any way will:

1. Receive a verbal warning.
2. If any disrespectful behavior continues, the student will lose participation points for the day.
3. If the student is respectful during the remainder of the class, they can “earn back” those points.
4. If the disruptive behavior continues, the student will receive a demerit and be required to meet with Mrs. Heyl that day after school.

A respectful awareness of the needs of those around us is fundamental to building strong peer relationships and a healthy learning environment. This value will be applied to all classroom interactions, but also to our care of classroom materials, books, school property, and the time and efforts of others. Students are to be responsible for their time during class and not use their cell phones.

Hard Work: This will be a challenging course but it will be a very rewarding experience for students who are dedicated and put forth the effort required. While supporting and helping your peers to grow and learn is encouraged, **any form of inappropriate assistance or cheating** (including providing answers on any assignment) is seriously detrimental to the learning process. Behavior of this sort **will result in zero credit for all students involved**. In addition, plagiarism of any type will not be tolerated and will also result in zero credit. Students will be required to pledge the honor code for all exams.

Because this is a “flipped” class, there will be a daily Reading Check in the form of a quiz, discussion or reflection. These will not be able to be made-up if the student is not present in class, even if the absence is excused. The lowest two Reading Check grades will be dropped at the end of each quarter.

Make-Up Work

Late work will be accepted until two calendar weeks after the due date or one week before the quarter ends (whichever comes first), for 70% of the possible credit.

- Excused Absences:
 - The make up work policy for excused absences will follow the guidelines set out in the student handbook: *In order to receive full credit, tests, papers, projects, and other large assessments are to be made up within one week of the absence at a due date convenient for the teacher and student. In general, students have one day per absence to complete and turn in missed assignments. Students who fail to make up work from absences may have a reduction or total loss in credit for the missing work at the discretion of the teacher.*
- Unexcused Absences:
 - The make up work policy for excused absences will follow the guidelines set out in the student handbook: *No credit is given for homework, quizzes or other daily assignments missed. For major assignments and examinations, the student will not receive a grade higher than 70%.*
- Absences due to Extracurricular Activities:
 - If a student is partaking in any extracurricular activities, then the student must turn in work on the due date or before. There is no excuse for a student to not do their work because they are involved in extracurricular activities. See the student handbook for more details.

Evaluation Criteria

Students will be graded based on their performance in the following areas:

Daily Assignments – 30% Quizzes, Exams, Other Major Assessments – 50% Participation* – 20%

*Participation is a vital part of achieving the objectives listed above. Participation points are given for active engagement in the class, shown by actions such as being present and prepared, asking questions, actively taking notes, submitting a thoughtful journal entry, etc. You cannot participate if you are not in class - missing class often will affect your participation grade!

St. Dominic Savio Policies

The Savio Code

The Savio Code is designed to help students, faculty, parents and administrators turn the mission statement into practical, day-to-day actions. As a Savio student, I promise to always strive to make God, my family and friends, and the Savio community proud. I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. My word is my bond. My faith is unwavering in the knowledge that all things are possible through Christ, who strengthens me.

The Honor Code

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School requires that all students abide by the honor code for all assignments and assessments, as set forth by the faculty and staff. "On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on this exam or assignment, and I will not reveal information about it to anyone after leaving the room."

Academic Integrity:

Students at St. Dominic Savio are expected to follow the honor code on all in-school assignments and assessments as well as all work and assessments completed outside of class. When a student chooses to compromise their academic integrity, they are willfully taking someone else's work and claiming it as their own. Furthermore, a student who aids the offending student is also guilty of violating their academic integrity. All cases of academic integrity are considered serious offenses and are part of a student's discipline record. There are two main types of academic integrity that students need to understand and abide by in their roles as Servant Leaders: cheating and plagiarism.

Reporting and Investigation Procedures regarding Academic Integrity

- 1) A teacher who witnesses a possible cheating or plagiarism violation immediately meets with the student to discuss and collect all evidence of the alleged violation of the honor code.*
- 2) The teacher then contacts the parents/guardians in order to explain the alleged incident.*
- 3) Within 24 hours, the teacher provides a written report, along with the student work and other evidence, to the Assistant Principal for review.*
- 4) The student completes the student report and delivers it to the Assistant Principal within 24 hours for review.*
- 5) After review of the evidence and discussions with the teacher and student(s), the Assistant Principal makes a determination regarding the possible violation of the honor code handbook policy.*
- 6) The parents and student are contacted by the Assistant Principal to discuss the violation and the consequences for the student.*

Cheating:

Cheating is any action a student takes to gain or provide an unfair advantage on an assignment, assessment, or a project. Cheating may include but is not limited to the following: bringing in an unpermitted aid or resource during an in-class assignment or assessment; asking for or providing answers during or after a test or assignment without permission; or submitting another person's work for one's own but changing the name on the paper. All violations of cheating are investigated and reviewed according to the procedure outlined above. Cheating is a Type II Violation which may result in up to 5 Demerits, and/or a Saturday Detention, and/or a zero on the assignment or assessment.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and theft of intellectual property. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the unauthorized exchange of answers on individual assignments, copying of another person's work and submitting it as one's own work, copying work from another student's electronic files, and not crediting sources when submitting a paper or research project.

All violations of plagiarism are investigated and reviewed according to the procedure outlined above. Plagiarism is addressed in two ways:

- 1. Minor Violation: The inappropriate use of sources which involves a string of words, forgotten citations, or not citing sources altogether. The consequence is a maximum of 5 Demerits, and/or a Saturday Detention, and/or the reassignment of the work with a proportionate deduction of credit.*
- 2. Major Violation: The extensive cutting and pasting of information from an outside source, copying homework answers from another student, or purchasing papers. Consequences for a major violation are 5 Demerits or 1 Saturday Detention and a mandatory loss of credit for the assignment.*

Mandatory Tutoring:

When students experience difficulty in a specific class, the administration may assign them to a regular tutoring session with the teacher of the class. Students will be required to attend these sessions on a regular basis to improve their performance in the class. Failure to attend a mandatory tutoring session results in a TYPE I Misconduct.

Learning Differences / Accommodations

Teachers at St. Dominic Savio follow school and Diocesan policy in regards to providing learning accommodations for students. In order to obtain learning accommodations, families are asked to follow the procedure and policies as outlined in the student/parent handbook (page 17).

Academic Grievance Procedure:

When a student has a concern regarding a grade, assignment, or assessment in a particular course, they are to follow this procedure in order to address their concern. At all parts of this process it is essential that the student be involved in the discussion in order to advocate for themselves.

- 1) The student and parents are to promptly meet with the teacher of the course.*
- 2) If the concern between the students, parent and instructor cannot be resolved, the parents and student meet with the Department Chair.*
- 3) The Department Chair determines if class regulations have been followed, and the integrity of the academic discipline has been maintained. The Department Chair will communicate their findings to the students and family*
- 4) If the concern has not been resolved with the Department Chair (or the Department Chair is the teacher of the course), the family may submit their written concern to the Principal. The Principal will make the final decision on academic concerns in consultations with instructors and Department Chairs.*

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have discussed these requirements in class, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. As a theology teacher, I consider my job to be supplemental to yours, as "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2223). I would like to strongly encourage family participation in the learning process as this is the best way to work towards the goal of developing a mature and educated faith. This syllabus and information regarding the Senior Project is available on my website. I look forward to working with you and your student this year in Theology class, at the Senior Retreat, and with their Senior Project. Thank you, in advance, for your questions and for your support.

Seniors - Return this form, signed by all requested parties, to Mrs. Heyl by Friday, August 19.

Sincerely,

I have read the Theology IV Course Syllabus and understand the requirements of this course. I understand the requirements of the Senior Project and that completion of the Senior Project is a graduation requirement of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Date

I grant permission for my child to undertake the Senior Project. I will be aware throughout the program of the project that he/she designs, proposes, and is approved. Having read the Senior Project manual, I am aware of the responsibilities and obligations of my child.

I am aware that acceptance is contingent upon fulfillment of the obligations and criteria stated in the Senior Project Manual and that failure to meet these requirements will jeopardize my child's participation in Senior Project.

Lastly, I am aware that my child will be working with a sponsoring business or non-profit agency for his or her Senior Project. I understand that they will not be under direct supervision by a Savio staff member during their time at their project site.

Parent or Guardian Phone Number

Parent or Guardian Email (please print clearly!)

I prefer to receive teacher contact via: _____ *email* or _____ *phone*.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date