



## FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

There is nothing so social by nature, so unsocial by its corruption, as [human] race.

Augustine

Augustine, *City of God* \*

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, selected questions on law \*

## HUMAN DIGNITY, FAITH AND REASON

The church sometimes has locked itself up in small things, in small rules. The most important thing

## GRAVITY AND GRACE

The love of our neighbor in all its fullness simply means being able to say to him:  
“What are you going through?” It is a recognition that the sufferer exists, not only as a  
unit in a collection, or a specimen from the social category labeled “unfortunates,”  
a man, exactly like us, who was one day stamped with a special mark by affliction.”  
Simone Weil

Simone Weil, selected essays \*\*

## EXILE, JUDGMENT, AND KINGDOM

The brother moved away a little from the cook and, half turning toward ~~the~~ Arrast,  
without looking at him, motioned him to an empty place: “Sit down with us.”  
Albert Camus

Albert Camus, *The Fall* \*

Exile and the Kingdom \*

## ANGER, JUSTICE, AND LOVE

One may well ask, “How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?”  
The answers is found in the fact that there are two types of laws: ~~just and~~ there  
are unjust laws.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., selected sermons \*\*

Letter from Birmingham Jail \*\*

“Have a Dream” \*\*

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#### COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to achieve an understanding of certain fundamental questions regarding the relationship between religion and politics. In this endeavor, we draw on works of political philosophy, scripture, literature, documentary film, and experience.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reflections and reflection presentations = 25%	Ten 1-page reflections, present 3 of these
Midterm Exam = 20%	In-class essay, Monday, March 2
Analytical Essay = 25% - Abstract and bibliography (5%) - Rough draft (5%) - Final draft (15%)	See analytical essay dates
Final Exam = 30%	Take-home essay, due to Stubbs 240 by 2:30pm, Thursday, May 7

Your course grade is based on reflection essays (25%), a midterm exam (20%), an 8-10 page analytic essay (25%), and a final exam (30%). You will be provided with review questions in advance of the exams. You will need a Blue Book and a Scantron for your midterm exam (available at the LSU bookstore). Your final exam will be a take-home exam, due in Stubbs 240, the Political Science office, no later than 2:30pm, Thursday, May 7, 2015. You are encouraged to organize your own group study, as it facilitates your understanding of the material and challenges you to think about the major questions and arguments of each text. All late material will be penalized. Announcements and readings for bonus opportunities

The analytical essay will consist of a 10 page exegetical and critical analysis. A list of suggested topics, as well as a detailed description of the assignment, will be provided for you. ~~the of this~~ You must have your topic approved. The essay will be due on Monday, April 20, 2015. Important dates for the essay:

Abstract and bibliography presentation (Friday, March 27, 2015 presentation and hard copy, 5%)

Rough draft: Monday, April 13, 2015 (hard copy for comments, 5%)

Final submission: Friday, April 24, 2015 (hard copy, 15%)

### Reading, Attendance, and Academic Integrity

Your success in this class depends upon your consistent attendance and participation. Before each class period, you should read the assigned materials and thoughtfully consider their significance for our study. Our task is to read sympathetically in order to read critically, that is, to understand what each author is asking and arguing, and then to thoughtfully evaluate his work. Of course, in order to facilitate analysis and ease of reference, you should bring your copy of the text

## Required Texts

\*Stu