

LIBERATION THEOLOGIES TH 3XB3/6XB6

McMaster Divinity College
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Fall 2009 (Term 1)
Tuesday 1:30-3:20

Description

How has theology brought reconciliation and freedom to people trapped in oppressive systems? We will examine movements and calls for change away from the brokenness of racism, poverty, and sexism.

Course Objectives

In this course you will have the opportunity to develop

Knowing

Examples of how social systems affect people for good and ill
Social implications of life in Christ for individuals, churches, and societies
How Christian life has dealt with and continues to address major challenges of racism, poverty, and sexism

Being

Aware of how social systems affect people for good and ill
Open with discernment to learning from other perspectives
Able to live grace and responsibility

Doing

Discern and resist oppression
Implement reconciliation

Required Texts

Sharon Heaney, *Contextual Theology for Latin America: Liberation Themes in Evangelical Perspective*, Wipf and Stock, 2008.

Martin Luther King, Jr. *Strength to Love*. Fortress Press, 1981.

Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, *Liberating Tradition: Women's Identity and Vocation in Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Mark A. Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

Desmond Tutu, *The Rainbow People of God*, Image, 1996.

The required textbooks are available from the College's book service- READ On Bookstore, Room

218, McMaster Divinity College. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; email books@readon.ca.

The textbooks will begin our study. Your own reading beyond will be crucial to gaining adequate coverage and depth.

Assignments and Evaluation

Point Tabulation

Consistent and thoughtful participation in class, up to 10 points

Test, November 3, up to 30 points

Research presentation, up to 20 points

Research paper, up to 40 points

Advanced Degree Students

Advanced degree students will complete all course assignments at a second degree level. They will complete a further 5000 pages of reading, and their research paper will be 7500 words. The evaluation proportions will be 10% participation, 10% annotated reading list (submitted by November 30), 20% exam, 20% research presentation, and 40% research paper.

Individual Presentation Instructions

By October 19 email to me the thesis you intend to pursue in your research paper. I will use that description to assign the best order of presentation. On your day of presentation you will make your best case for your thesis and, as a class, we will discuss it through with you. It is to your advantage to write as much as you can of your paper before your presentation. Then you can improve your paper from class feedback. By the end of your session, your compatriots should know more of liberation theology than they did at the start of class and your thesis should be stronger for having explained and tested it.

Paper Instructions

In the first paragraph state what your paper will accomplish. This is your thesis. It should be an assertion that you will attempt to prove. Also in the first paragraph state how you will prove your thesis, and why it is worth the attention of you and your reader. It is expected that you will pursue one aspect of the liberation theology schematic described in class applied to a current question. Make your case with full explanation of your theological assumptions and application. Stating and evaluating alternatives with fairness will strengthen your essay. Do not merely repeat material presented in class. This is your opportunity to pursue in more depth an investigation of particular importance to you.

There is not a required number of references; however, it is unlikely that you will be the first person to ever reflect on your theme. It is to your advantage to learn from others rather than

starting from scratch. Your analysis will be stronger for it. Whoever you learn from as you think through your issue, should receive credit.

The paper should be typed, single spaced, well presented, page numbered, and no more than 3500 words in Word or a PDF format. You will be given in class an email address to send it to. A receipt will be sent in return. You are welcome to turn the paper in as soon as it is complete. The paper is due by 7 pm on November 30. Beginning after 7 pm November 30 and then each additional day late, the paper loses one letter gradation per day such as A to A- or B+ to B. All papers should be submitted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* or the MacDiv Style Guide, which can be found on the web at: <http://www.macdiv.ca/students/documents/MacStyleGuideApr1508.pdf>

As an important part of clarity in your own mind and communication to others, please use standard English. Note the following checklist:

Block quote any quotation more than three lines long. Block quotes are single spaced with indented margins and no quotation marks.

Use footnotes. They may be in any standard format provided all of the relevant information is included and you are consistent throughout the paper. The Chicago Manual of Style is the most widely used authority for works in theology and philosophy.

Book and journal titles receive italics. Article titles are placed in quotes.

Do not use no double negative.

Verbs has to agree with their subjects.

Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent

Do not write run on sentences since they are hard to follow and understand for those who are reading your thoughts and seeking to gain from your insights born of experience and careful reflection in this academic endeavor we rightfully treasure highly, as well we should.

About them sentence fragments.

Just between you and I, case is important too.

Try to not often, or maybe even never, split infinitives.

Ones apostrophe's should be used correctly.

Don't use contractions in a formal essay.

Corect speling iz eesencheal. Withot it yure righting iz hard to reed and givs the empresheon that yu do not no wat yu ar doeeng.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence in the academic world that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on the transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a violation of the integrity of persons in the form of unsolicited, unwelcome, verbal or physical behavior, which discriminates on the basis of gender about a person's body, attire, gender, marital status or economic status. Among faculty, staff, and students, sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Class Schedule

Depending upon class understanding and interest, class content may at times be ahead or behind the following schedule.

September 15

Welcome, introduction, and syllabus

The development of Liberation Theology in Latin America

Study before class *Contextual Theology for Latin America: Liberation Themes in Evangelical Perspective* by Sharon Heaney

September 22

The slave trade and Wilberforce in the Commonwealth

See together film *Amazing Grace*

September 29

The need to transform both people and society to achieve liberation

Study before class pages 95-156 of *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* by Mark Noll

October 6

Slavery and liberation in the southeastern United States

Study before class Noll pages 1-94, 157-162

October 13

Segregation and liberation

Study before class *Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King Jr.

October 20

Apartheid and liberation in South Africa: Sullivan, boycott, or violent revolution

Study before class *The Rainbow People of God* by Desmond Tutu

October 27

Women's Liberation

Study before class *Liberating Tradition: Women's Identity and Vocation in Christian Perspective* by Kristina Lacelle-Peterson

November 3

Test

November 10, 17, 24

Research presentations

December 1

Patterns and questions

Suggested Bibliography to start further investigation

If the book is available at Mills, its call number follows. If you choose to checkout a Mills book please be careful to return it quickly since fellow class members may well be looking for it.

Baldwin, Lewis, ed. *The legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.: the boundaries of law, politics, and religion*. University of Notre Dame Press, c2002. Mills E 185.97 .K5L35 2002.

Belmonte, Kevin. *Hero for Humanity*. Navpress Publishing Group, 2002.

Boff, Leonardo and Clovis Boff. *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1989. Mills BT 83.57 .B59613 1987.

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1953. Mills PS 3503 .R167F3 1981.

Carson, Clayborne. *The autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Warner Books, 1998. (Carson, a Stanford University historian flows together the narrative of King's life in King's own words from letters, sermons, speeches, books...).

Cone, James. *A Black Theology of Liberation*. Orbis, 1990. Mills BT 82.7 .C666 1990.

Downing, Frederick L. *To see the promised land: the faith pilgrimage of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Mercer University Press, 1986. Mills E 185.97 .K5 D68 1986.

Ellingsen, Mark. *Reclaiming our roots: an inclusive introduction to church history*. Trinity Press International, 1999. Mills BR 145.2 .E435 1999.

Englund, Daniel L.. *The Eternal Perspective in a Finite World a case study of the religious and political life of William Wilberforce*. Mills DA522.W6 E53 1998a.

Escobar, Samuel. *Changing Tides: Latin America and World Mission Today*. Orbis, 2002.

Fairclough, Adam. *To redeem the soul of America: the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King, Jr.* University of Georgia Press, 1987. Mills E 185.61 .F17 1987.

Fox-Genovese and Eugene Genovese. *The Mind of the Master Class: History and Faith in the Southern Slave Holders' Worldview*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Mills F 213 .F69 2005.

Friere, Paulo, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Continuum, 2000. Mills LB 880 .F73P4313 2000.

Gay, Craig. *With Liberty and Justice for Whom? The Recent Evangelical Debate over Capitalism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. Mills BR 115 .C3 G39 2000.

Genovese, Eugene. *Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made*. Vintage, 1976. Mills E 443 .G46.

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*, Orbis, 2003. BT 83.57 .G8813 1988.

Gutierrez, Gustavo. *We Drink from our Own Wells*, SCM, 1984. BR 600 .G8713 1984b.

Heaney, Sharon E. *Contextual Theology for Latin America*, Wipf and Stock, 2008. Mills BR 1642 .L29 H43 2008.

Inchausti, Robert. *Subversive orthodoxy: outlaws, revolutionaries, and other Christians in disguise*. Brazos Press, 2005. Mills BR 115 .C8 I475 2005.

Ivory, Luther D. *Toward a theology of radical involvement: the theological legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Abingdon Press, 1997. Mills BX 4827 .K53I96 1997.

Keener, Craig S. *Paul, Women, and Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992. Mills BS 2655 .W5 K44 1992.

King Jr., Martin Luther, The papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. / senior editor, Clayborne Carson; volume editors, Ralph E. Luker, Penny A. Russell; advisory editor, Louis R. Harlan. University of California Press, 1992. Mills E 185.97 .K5 A2 1992.

King Jr., Martin Luther, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*. Harper, 1958/ HarperCollins Reprint edition. Mills E 185.89 .T8 K53.

King Jr., Martin Luther, *Why we can't wait*. Harper & Row, 1964. Mills E 185.61 .K54 1964.

April 2008 addition of *Theology Today* (Vol 65, no. 1). The issue is devoted to Martin Luther King, Jr. and contains six articles about him. Mills BR 1.T56.

LaCelle-Peterson, Kristina. *Liberating Tradition: Women's Identity and Vocation in Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. Mills BV 639 .W7 L335 2008.

Ling, Peter J. *Martin Luther King, Jr.* Routledge, 2002. Mills E 185.97 .K5L55 2002

Lischer, Richard. *The preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the word that moved America*. Oxford University Press, 1995. Mills BV 4208 .U6 L57 1995.

Linthicum, Robert. *Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003. Mills BT 738.25 .L57 2003.

Marsh, Charles. *Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice from the Civil Rights Movement to Today*. NY: Basic Books, 2004. Mills HN 39 .U6 M37 2005.

Miguez Bonino, Jose. *Faces of Latin American Protestantism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. Mills BX 4805.2 .M5413 1997.

Moon, Claire. *Narrating Political Reconciliation: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2008. Mills DT 1974.2 .M66 2008.

Moses, Greg. *Revolution of conscience: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the philosophy of nonviolence*. Guilford Press, 1997. Mills E 185.97 .K5 M65 1997

Noll, Mark A. *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

Novak, Michael. *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982. Mills HB 72 .N68 1982.

- Padilla, C. Rene. *Mission Between the Times*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985. Mills BV 601.8 .R46 1985.
- Pelphrey, B. *Christ our Mother: Julian of Norwich*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1989. Mills BV 5095.J84P44.
- Perkins, Spencer and Chris Rice. *More Than Equals: Racial Healing for the Sake of the Gospel. Revised and Expanded*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. Mills E 185.615 .P43 2000.
- Pollock, John. *Wilberforce*. Lion, 1986. Mills DA 522 .W6 P65
- Robins, Steven L. *Limits to Liberation After Apartheid: citizenship, governance, and culture*. Ohio University Press, 2005. JQ 1983 .L56 2005.
- Stackhouse, John. *Finally Feminist: A Pragmatic Christian Understanding of Gender: Why Both Sides are Wrong and Right*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005. Mills BT 708 .S67 2005.
- Stackhouse, Max L. *On Moral Business: Classical and Contemporary Resources for Ethics in Economic Life*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. Mills HF 5387 .O53 1995.
- Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women, and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001. Mills BS 476 .W38 2001.
- Wilberforce, William. *An appeal to the religion, justice, and humanity of the inhabitants of the British empire: in behalf of the negro slaves in the West Indies*. University Microfilms, 2006. Mills HT 871 .W55 1823a.
- Wilberforce, William. *The Family Prayers of William Wilberforce*. Edited by Robert Wilberforce and Kevin Belmonte. Riven Oak Press, 1999. Mills BV255.W54 1999.
- Wilberforce, William. *The Private Papers*, 1897. Mills DA 522 .W6 A4.
- Wilberforce, William. *Real Christianity: Discerning True and False Faith*. Regent College Publishing, 2003.

Congratulations on completing Liberation Theologies

This syllabus is for information only and remains the property of the professor. The syllabus is prepared with the best information available, but the professor reserves the right to change the content and format of the course.