Course Description:
The course focuses on enabling religious educators and pastoral ministers to think theologically about issues of peace and justice. The course will explore biblical, historical, theological, and philosophical resources for understanding peace and justice as a constitutive dimensions of Christian faith. Special attention will be given to pedagogical approaches to peace and justice within the field of religious education. There is also a focus on providing a foundational framework for social ministers to envision their ministry and how their ministry relates to other ministries in the church. Based on student interest and experience, the course will explore ways of bringing a concern for peace and justice issues into liturgy, preaching, religious education and pastoral ministry; how to relate Christian understandings of peace and justice to everyday work, and civic, political, and family life; and how to address social issues from a Christian faith perspective.

Learning Objectives:
Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of core theories, approaches, and specialized knowledge within the academic field of religious education pertaining to religious education for peace and justice
- Demonstrate an ability to effectively relate this understanding to one’s own lived experience and ministerial contexts
- Demonstrate a well-rounded knowledge and critical appropriation of Catholic and Jesuit theological traditions within the broader context of religious education for peace and justice

Course Resources:

- Required texts:


There will be additional readings posted on the course Blackboard site.

- The experience and insight of the teacher.
- The experience and insight of the students.

**Course Curriculum**

**Part One: Introduction: Thinking Theologically about Peace and Justice**

**Required Reading**

- Forell and Childs, *Christian Social Teachings*:
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (pp. 346-357)
- Omar and Duffey, *Peacemaking and the Challenge of Violence in World Religions*:
  - Chapter 2 - Christianity: From Peacemaking to Violence and Home Again (pp. 47-74; 80-82)
  - Chapter 3 - Jewish Ideologies of Peace and Peacemaking (pp. 83-106; 107-108)
  - Chapter 1 - Jihad and Nonviolence in the Islamic Tradition (pp. 9-40; 44-46)

**Part Two: Educational Foundations: Human Experience and Liberation**

**Required Reading**

- Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (pp. 35-124)

**Part Three: Social Analysis: Reading the Signs of the Times**

**Required Reading**
Part 4: Biblical Perspectives: Faith That Does Justice

Required Reading

- Forell and Childs, *Christian Social Teachings: Biblical Influences* (pp. 2-15)

Part 5: Historical Influences: Catholic, Reformation, and Radical Reformation Perspectives on Peace and Justice

Required Reading

- Forell and Childs, *Christian Social Teachings*:
  - Augustine. Selections from *Enchiridion, City of God*, and *Of the Morals of the Catholic Church* (pp. 46-52; 54-56)
  - Thomas Aquinas. Selections from *Summa Theologica II* (pp. 76-98)
- Forell and Childs, *Christian Social Teachings*:
  - Martin Luther. Selections from *Treatise on Christian Liberty* and
Temporal Authority (pp. 104-114)
- John Calvin. Selections from Institutes of the Christian Religion (pp. 119-128)

- Bender, Harold S. 1944. The Anabaptist Vision. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press. (pp. 3-36) (Blackboard)
- Forell and Childs, Christian Social Teachings: - The Anabaptists. Selections from The Schleitheim Confession of Faith and Menno Simons, Reply to False Accusations (pp. 129-132; 136-139)
  - The Quakers (Society of Friends). Selections from Rules of Discipline (pp.159-162)

Part 5: Catholic Social Teaching

Required Reading

- Pope Leo XII. 1891. Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of Labor) – par. 1-23; 31; 42; 53-54 (Blackboard)
- Pope Pius XI. 1931. Quadragesimo Anno (On the Reconstruction of the Social Order) – par. 1; 16-24; 39-41; 46-47; 78-93; 105-137 (Blackboard)
- Pope John XXIII. 1963. Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) – par. 1-77; 147-150; 167 (Blackboard)
- Vatican II. 1965. Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) – par. 1-4-11-18; 23-45; 54-62; 66; 69; 76-78; 83 (Blackboard)
- Pope Paul VI. 1967. Populorum Progressio (On the Development of Peoples) – par. 1-26; 42; 49; 76-83 (Blackboard)
- Synod of Bishops. 1971. Justicia in Mundo (Justice in the World) – par. 1-77 (Blackboard)
- Pope John Paul II. 1987. Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (On Social Concern) – par. 1-4; 11-40 (Blackboard)
- Pope Benedict XVI. 2009. Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth) – par. 1-35; 43-46; 53-54; 68; 79 (Blackboard)
- Pope Francis. 2015. Laudato Si’ (On Care for Our Common Home) – par. 1-6; 13-15; 18-36; 43-52; 65-69; 76-77; 93-95; 105; 112; 116; 119; 138-141; 156-160; 200-201; 209-215 (Blackboard)

Part Seven: Social Ministry

Required Reading

- Hessel, Social Ministry (pp. vii-208)
Part Eight: Pedagogies for Peace and Justice

Required Reading

- Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed (pp. 125-183)