Information Sheet for Paper for Law and Religion: Catholic Social Thought and Justice
last revised 1-10-04

Every student must write a research paper on some aspect of Catholic social thought and justice. The paper must be at least 25 typed pages in length. Your research paper may also count as your writing requirement. A paper submitted for a writing requirement must be 30 typed pages. If you are taking the course for three hours credit, your paper must be 40 pages. Every student will make an oral presentation to the class.

A one page outline of your paper is due February 13. The deadline for turning in completed papers is April 16. Turning the paper after the deadline will result in a grade reduction of one full letter for each week it is late. I will be glad to look at your rough draft and give you my reactions, as long as you give the rough draft to me at least two weeks prior to when the final paper is due.

The focus of your paper should be on a theme from Catholic social thought. You may choose one or more documents discussed in class or you can explore other documents. You may choose to look at Catholic social teaching and a particular area of law like human rights, federalism, civil rights, health care, immigration, poverty, international trade, third world debt, war and peace, death penalty, environment, women, living wage, education, right to unionize, private property, international law, economic justice, taxation, restorative justice, or some other area of law or proposed law. Or you may choose to write on Catholic social teaching and issues which touch on the professional or personal role of law or lawyers in the economic, political, social justice, social development, or public policy spheres.

The form of the paper should be double-spaced, with footnotes on the same page, not at the conclusion. Footnotes should contain enough information to be able to answer the question: where can the teacher find the authority for what the student said? Where possible cite to primary authorities, e.g. do not cite the Wall Street Journal or Time magazine or a law review article for statutes, cite the statute itself. Consult the Blue Book for ideas on form for footnotes. Absolute compliance with the Blue Book is not necessary but it is a good place to get ideas on how to accurately cite. A note about sources and integrity. I expect that you understand you must document your sources and you must not quote from sources without attribution. This means that if you use a passage or even a footnote from another source you must cite to that source. For example, if you are highlighting a passage from a law review article which footnotes that author’s source you should not only cite the source found in the law review article but also cite the law review article you took it from, unless you went to the original source and read it directly yourself. If your paper suggests that research of others is actually research of yours, that can pose a serious problem for your grade and an honor code violation for you.

I do not expect or want you to write a religion paper. Your paper should reflect that you are studying to be, and will soon be, a lawyer. Criteria used to calculate your grade will include whether the paper reviewed and incorporated the following: analysis; creativity; clarity; historical context; fair and accurate use of a range of sources; fair treatment of opposing views; economic implications; factual research; depth; insight; thoughtfulness and critical thinking; and the ability to communicate in a persuasive, competent and professional manner.
Resources for Papers in Law and Religion: Catholic Social Teaching

The Catholic Dimensions of Legal Study: The Catholic University Law School Annotated Bibliography, 2002  http://www.law.cua.edu/bibliography/catholic.pdf  There are also a number of more recent law review articles which analyze legal issues in light of Catholic social thought.

Good luck and feel free to ask me questions directly or by email quigley@loyno.edu