Social Justice Miss Karen Pilon

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The purpose of this semester-long theology course is to introduce students to the Church’s social teaching. Students learn how Christ’s concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church’s social teaching and mission. Emphasis will be placed on Scripture, Church teaching, distinguishing between social justice and acts of charity, and developing the student’s own critical thinking in evaluating social issues.

This course is an approved elective offering from the US Bishops’ High School Curriculum Framework (*Option C: Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society*). Curriculum objectives can be viewed at:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/upload/high-school-curriculum-framework.pdf>

Expectations

* There is no textbook assigned to this course. Instead, you will use various on-line church documents and assigned readings which will be posted on the class weebly.
* Students will be challenged to integrate Church teaching and Scripture with their personal beliefs and opinions. This can be expressed in writing and evaluated on tests. However, social ills are solved collectively- and not by the silent. To that end, class and group participation will be evaluated and graded.
* The semester course grade will consist of 80% Class Participation, Homework & Tests and 20% Semester Project. Any failed test can be corrected for additional credit to a 60%. Please see the weebly for directions on this. Any failed/missing work can be submitted late for (at best) 70%. The semester project must receive a passing grade to earn credit in this course.
* I am teaching adults. As long as your behavior reflects that, there is no need for classroom management. Students should expect that in a Social Justice theology course, respect will be the hallmark of our class time together in our Catholic school. If you choose otherwise, know that disrespect in conversation, written word, or in actions will not be tolerated.
* All SMCC Policies outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook will be followed. This includes, but is not limited to the Behavior Rubric, Athletic Eligibility, Acceptable iPad Use, Attendance & Tardies.
* **In the event of a school cancellation, graded work will be posted on the weebly. Check for it.**
* We will watch portions of various movies in class. Movies which are realistic to social injustice, both historically and in our present day, may contain offensive and/or violent topics. If you find yourself challenged by this, please feel free to leave for the restroom or a drink. If Mr. Linster is teaching a unit on Criminal Justice, he will show an R-rated movie for which your parent’s written permission will be needed, even if you are 18 years old.
* It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with the class- present or not. Absent work is recorded as a zero until it is submitted. Homework, test study lists, handouts, etc. will be posted on the class weebly at the end of each school day. Absent students should check this for missed work- in the evening of the missed day. Please do not check for work when you wake up, find nothing, and assume that you have missed nothing.

* When submitting absent work, be certain that the teacher knows that it was absent and not late. If a test item refers to an in-class activity for which a student was absent, note ‘absent’ by the item. I will cross-reference the lesson plan and attendance record. If the student was absent, this item will be exempted from the test grade. If you take longer to submit your absent work then your absence was to begin with, it will be graded as late work.
* You do not need to be at school to submit on-line work. An absence will not excuse the late work. Late Work/Test Corrections will not be accepted after 2:30pm on the last day of the marking period. Remember, SMCC is a college-prep school and you are seniors!
* Late work is accepted with a 30% deduction. This includes the semester project. Mathematically, zeros are hard to overcome—turn in *something* even if it’s late. If you fail an assignment, re-do it and submit it for (*the higher*) late credit.
* **Being absent does not change the date of your test.** No college professor will extend your test date. Keep up with the work posted on the weebly. The only exception to this would be a speaker or video that *cannot* be posted to the weebly.
* Class/Homework will be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Any original work/reflection with a similarity score 30% or higher will not be accepted (*excludes homework directions/questions*). Be sure to check your score, and if needed, revise and re-submit. If your assignment is late work, use the Late Work Folder at turnitin. E-mail the teacher to inform her that you have posted a late assignment. **Only one late assignment can be posted at a time**.
* Papers will be marked down for poor English usage. Your word processing software has a spell checker and a grammar checker. Use them.
* Any paper/test where there is teacher concern with cheating/plagiarism will earn a 0% and school discipline on the SMCC Behavior Rubric. Please note that turnitin informs the teacher (*by name*) of the student who supplied the work- whether that person is in the same class, semester, school year, etc. Make-up work for this 0% will not be given. Don’t cheat and this won’t apply to you.
* A student’s poor grade is not a teacher emergency. There is no planned extra credit for this course. If you need assistance with assignments or studying, please plan to stay for an afterschool study session.
* Work being done in class for another class will be confiscated immediately and without discussion. How you handle that situation will directly impact whether materials are returned you… and when. The same applies to your cell phone.
* Water Drinkers which have been permitted by the Office

You have been given permission to drink water (only). Be prepared to spill out a little of your drink to show that it is water. If it is not water, you will dump your drink, fill it with water and then return to class tardy. Do not ask to put your coffee (or whatever) in your locker. If it is medically necessary for you to have water with you at all times, then that is what you should be doing.

Contacting the Teacher

Seniors, if your question relates to homework or testing scheduled for the coming school day, I suggest that you contact a classmate OR review the available information on the class weebly.

Parents, I check my e-mail throughout the school day and will reply to your questions/comments as soon as possible. If you call, the voice message is forwarded to my e-mail. I make every effort to reply the same day. That said, if there is a concern, the student should discuss it with me first. As graduating seniors, these adults will have to manage their college concerns on their own. If this doesn’t resolve the concern, we can all meet at the parent’s convenience.

*Students, I am here to assist you in any way. I will write college and scholarship recommendations, reschedule tests if you are overloaded, proofread work for other classes, pray for you—and a host of other things. You know this about me. Don’t hesitate to ask when you need help.*