

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RELIGION

LATIN AMERICAN LIBERATION THEOLOGY

COURSE RATIONALE

The election in 2013 of the first Latin American-born Pope, Francis I, and the canonization of Saint Oscar Romero of El Salvador on Oct 14, 2018, are two major consequences of the Second Conference of Latin American Bishops held 50 years ago in Medellín, Colombia. Its summary document, especially the chapters on Justice, Peace, and Poverty of the Church, provided the framework for the development of Latin American Liberation Theology.

For the first time in the history of the continent, the “scandalous situation of the poor” took center stage in the theological reflections of the major Christian Churches. Together with the social, economic, and political reality of the Latin American and Caribbean societies, questions of gender, race, ethnicity, the environment, and the dialogue among different religious traditions came to the fore. This short course will be an introduction to the issues and challenges that Latin American Theology has addressed since the early 1970s.

Participants from different religious and/or philosophical backgrounds, will have the opportunity to appreciate the development of a new way of approaching religion and social justice in Latin American and the Caribbean, after five centuries of their colonial and neocolonial History.

What is Liberation Theology? How was it born and grown? What is its method? Who are its main authors? What are its main contributions? Why is it controversial? These and other questions will be discussed during these eight weeks’ course.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required textbook: Bingemer, Maria Clara L. (2016): *Liberation Theology. Roots and Branches*, Maryknoll, New York, Orbis Books. [available in stores and online]

Further readings and videos available at: <https://liberationtheology.org/>

A video: *Monseñor. The Last Journey of Oscar Romero*, will be partially shown in class.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE and main topics

1. Personal introductions. Participants' expectations. Methodology.

Introduction to Liberation Theology.

A change of Paradigm: "From *Intellectus Fidei* to *Intellectus Amoris*" - Bingemer, op.cit.
Bingemer, Introduction: pp. 1-9.

The Pact of the Catacombs. St. Domitilla, Rome, November 16, 1965.

<http://www.pro-konzil.de/english-text/> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pact_of_the_catacombs

2. From Projection to Source. A Brief History of Latin American Liberation Theology.
Bingemer, Chap. 1: pp. 11-35

Liberation Theology and Latin American History

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/0800697782Chapter1.pdf>

3. The Poor as Subject and as Method

Bingemer, Chap. 2: pp. 37-67.

Video: Liberation Theology and Radical Christianity, with C. Rowland at:

<https://liberationtheology.org/articles/>

4. Gender and Human Rights in Latin America

Bingemer, Chap. 3: pp. 69-85

Jerusha Tenner Rhodes, Muslima Theology and Interreligious Feminist Solidarity

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_gQ3B133JY

5. The Poor and the Earth – Eco-theology and the Economy of Liberation

Bingemer, Chap. 4: pp. 87-100

Pope Francis, *Laudato Sii*. On care for our common home

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa->

[francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf](#)
<https://liberationtheology.org/books-videos/bibliography-on-liberation-ecologies/>

6. A Theology in Dialogue with Other Religious Traditions

Bingemer, Chap. 5: pp. 101-118.

Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-02/pope-francis-uae-declaration-with-al-azhar-grand-imam.html>

7. A Theology in Dialogue with Other Religious Traditions (cont.)

<https://liberationtheology.org/people-organizations/tissa-balasuriya/>

https://www.academia.edu/26731374/VOICES_2014-1_-_Theology_of_Liberation_and_Poscolonial_Thought.pdf

8. The Future of Latin American Theology

Bingemer, Conclusion: pp. 119-123 pp.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.pdf

METHODOLOGY

The sessions intend to be in the format of Workshops, in the sense that active participation is expected of each participant:

1. A copy of the suggested Plan for the weekly meeting will be distributed at the beginning of the first session.
2. Recommended readings for each of the remaining sessions: a book will be recommended as a basic guide (see basic bibliography), as well as easily accessible online articles (pdf) and/or videos.
3. Each session begins with a brief presentation about the topic suggested for the day (average of no more than 30 minutes), followed by questions and clarifications;

4. After a 15-20 minutes' break, participants are gathered in groups of 3-5 for discussions, and then sharing with the rest of the class.

OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Amazonia: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/06/08/180608a.html>

Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians

<https://eatwot.academia.edu/EATWOT>

https://eatwot.academia.edu/Departments/International_Theological_Commission/Documents

Liberation Christology. Getting the poor down from the cross.

https://www.academia.edu/26731752/EATWOTs_International_Theological_Commission_-_Getting_The_Poor_Down_From_The_Poor_Christology_of_Liberation

Global Conference on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, Abu-Dhabi Interface Meeting, February 2019.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-02/pope-francis-uae-global-conference-human-fraternity-full-text.html>

Feminist Theology

https://www.academia.edu/26730714/VOICES_2016-1_-_Feminist_Theology_Reaching_New_Borders

Liberation Theology and New Paradigms

https://www.academia.edu/26731530/VOICES_2014-4_-_Liberation_Theology_and_New_Paradigms

Theology of Liberation and Postcolonial Thought

https://www.academia.edu/26731374/VOICES_2014-1_-_Theology_of_Liberation_and_Poscolonial_Thought.pdf

Marx Now/Expert Read Marx-Marx Lesen: Norman Birnbaum on Marx as a “moral prophet”

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/kul/wir/mnw.html>

The Spirituality of Liberation

Segundo Galilea: <https://www.theway.org.uk/back/25Galilea.pdf>

Pedro Casaldáliga and José M. Vigil: https://www.academia.edu/20206007/Casald%C3%A1liga-Vigil_The_Spirituality_of_Liberation_Burn_and_Oates_London_1994

LIBERATION PHILOSOPHY [Only in Spanish]

Filosofía de la Liberación. Aportes para pensar a partir de la descolonialidad.

https://issuu.com/ferbicealvarez/docs/filosof_a_de_la_liberaci_n._aport

Cuadernos de Descolonización y Liberación. Revista Oficial de la Asociación de Filosofía y Liberación (AFyL).

<http://www.humanidadespopulares.cl/ojs/index.php/humanidades>

INSTRUCTOR

José Aparecido Gomes Moreira

Born in 1951 in São José dos Campos, Brazil. Holds a Master's Degree in History of the Evangelization in Latin America (Our Lady of Assumption School of Theology, São Paulo, Brazil), and in History & Ethnohistory (National School of Anthropology and History, Mexico City). Member of CEHILA (Commission of Studies on Latin American Church History) since 1982, and of AMERINDIA (www.amerindiaenlared.org) since 2008.

Author of "Fünf Jahre Franziskus – aus der Perspektive der Befreiungstheologie" (Five years of Pope Francis – from the Perspective of Liberation Theology), In: *ET-Studies* 9 (2018) 1, 61-88; "Paolo Sarpi. 'O Servita'. Herege ou santo?" In: *Revista Eclesiástica Brasileira* (REB) 75, Nr. 299, July/August 2015, 637-757; and *Conquista y Conciencia Cristiana. El Pensamiento Indigenista y Jurídico-Teológico de Don Vasco de Quiroga (+1565)*. Quito-México, Abya-Yala-CENAMI-MLAL, 1990 & 1992.

Please feel free to contact me anytime by email: taihupara@hotmail.com or by cell: 512-521-4514.