

Theology 12: Prophets & Peacemakers

Miss Piendak

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Room #202

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Course Question: What does it mean to live a Christian vocation by reading the signs of our time?

Theology should not just be what one BELIEVES but what one DOES.

Michael Himes

“The greatest challenge of the day is: how to *bring about a revolution of the heart*,
a revolution which has to start with each one of us.”

Dorothy Day

"Education is our passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X

“Everyone seem to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives,
but none about his or her own.”

The Alchemist

Course Description/Overview:

Students will be introduced to the idea of “vocation” by studying the lives and times of men and women such as Dorothy Day, Malcolm X, and the journey of The Alchemist. In addition to an examination of their particular moment in history (Great Depression, Civil Rights Movement etc.), students will be challenged to put their own lives into conversation with the spiritual journeys that each figure embarked upon in his/her life. The goal is for students to recognize how prophets and peacemakers came to a greater realization of their own identity and calling by engaging in the major issues of their day.

In the second semester, students will be called to a critical awareness of the world *they* live in, asked to identify the major issues in *their* time, and invited to reflect upon *their own* gifts and talents and what *they* bring to the world. We will journey through the life of The Alchemist paying close attention to how one’s vocation and life path is largely shaped by his/her environment and the people, places and gifts we encounter along the way.

Course Goals: This course will be taught in accord with the mission of Trinity Catholic High School as written on page 4 of the Handbook. Specifically, this course is designed to enable students to

1. Explore and discover how one’s purpose is intertwined with God’s purposes for the world. (GG #1, 6)
2. Articulate a theological and personal understanding of vocation and discernment. (GG #3, 4)
3. Identify both contemporary and historical figures who have performed God’s work on earth, explaining how their lives modeled Christ’s love and compassion. (GG #2, 6)
4. View significant Christian and non-Christian figures as models of faith, transformation, conversion and vision. (GG #5)
5. Trace the historical times periods and the impact these eras have had on prophetic men and women of their time. (GG #2, 5)
6. Analyze the impact of one’s environment on his/her own spiritual journey, development and life path. (GG #1, 3)
7. View a variety of vocational life paths and their impact on the world in which we live. (G #5)
8. Articulate the obstacles and influences impacting the shaping of one’s identity and personal discernment process. (GG #1, 4, 6)

- Required Texts:** Quarter 1: Doing the Truth in Love (by Michael Himes)
Love is the Measure (by Jim Forest)
Quarter 2: The Autobiography of Malcolm X (as told by Alex Haley)
Quarter 3: The Alchemist (by Paulo Coelho)

- Required Materials:** Student must bring the following to class every day:
- * Writing utensil (only pencil, blue or black ink is acceptable)
 - * Three ring binder with the following dividers:
 - o *FOCUS ACTIVITIES*
 - o *CLASS NOTES*
 - o *HOMEWORK/HANDOUTS*
 - o *TESTS/QUIZZES*
 - * A healthy supply of loose-leaf paper
 - * School supplied Student Agenda
 - * Any text being studied in class

Grading Policy: Theology is a recognized academic discipline; this course will be taught with this in mind. You should take seriously every reading assignment, focus activity, writing log, essay, project, quiz and test. Your *grades are something that you earn* and should be something that you work hard to be proud of. Grades will be assessed on a point system. Grades will fall into the following categories:

HOMEWORK - Nightly and weekly homework assignments will be given regularly.

TESTS & QUIZZES - Unit and semester tests/quizzes will be administered with advance notice. Various methods of assessment will be utilized, including fill-in-the-blank, short answer, essay, oral, true and false, etc. The DAILY REFLECTION section of your binders must be kept neat and organized as it will periodically be collected as a quiz grade through the year.

PARTICIPATION - Student participation is **required** in class. Students will receive a participation grade twice each quarter. Students can earn participation points by being prepared, paying attention and actively participating in class. Lack of effort, disruption, disrespect for instructor, others or self, sleeping, not engaging in class and coming unprepared will result in low participation grades.

AMS - Is required for ANY student with a failing grade during the designated two week time period. Students who fail to attend AMS will receive a ZERO for this assignment.

Classroom Expectations:

As members of our Trinity Catholic community, all students are expected to follow all rules and regulations outlined in the Student Handbook. Additionally, the classroom expectations are:

1. **It is imperative that each student be on time for class.** This means in the door and in your seat. If you arrive late and the class is in the middle of prayer DO NOT open or knock on the door. Wait patiently until prayer is complete. DO NOT arrive late without a pass.
2. **Arrive to class in proper dress code.** If the bell rings and you are not in the room in proper dress code you will be considered tardy to class.
3. **Come prepared,** ready to learn and ready to participate. Theology is a very discussion and conversation centered discipline. You will learn more and enjoy class more if you participate in daily activities. Maintain a positive attitude for learning!
4. **Always bring the necessary materials needed for class each day.** No trips will be taken to lockers on any occasion.
5. **Side conversation and speaking out of turn is in no way tolerated.** It is in every way an annoyance and an act of disrespect to everyone in class. Similarly, you will use only language that is respectful and appropriate at all times.
6. **You will receive 3 bathroom passes for the YEAR!** These are the only 3 you will get for the year so use them wisely!
7. **Sleeping...don't do it!**
8. Ask for help.

Classroom Policies/Procedures:

Focus Activity – each class period will begin with a Focus Question/Activity. When the bell rings you are expected to begin work on the day's Focus Activity quietly and independently at your desk.

Prayer – we will pray each period after our Focus Activity. Students are expected to prepare and lead prayer once throughout the school year.

Bathroom Policy – no student will be given permission to use the bathroom during a lesson. During individual work time you may ask for permission however, will be required to use one of your bathroom passes. In the case of EMERGENCY (illness etc.) the student may use the restroom after alerting the teacher. Please do not abuse this policy.

Homework Policy – If homework is not turned in when collected by the teacher, it is LATE. There are no exceptions to this policy. ***Homework and papers CANNOT be emailed under any circumstances.*** The following heading should be used on ALL assignments turned in to the teacher (*points will be deducted for failure to include this heading*):

Student Name
Course Title & Teacher Name
Date Assignment is Due
Assignment Title

Make-up Work – In accordance with the TCHS policy outlined in the handbook, a student will be generally have **one day** for each day missed to make up work. It is your responsibility to find out about and make up all missed work. Students will have one week to arrange to take missed tests, after one week the grade will be a zero. ALL TEST MAKE-UPS MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL.

Teacher Conferences – I am available before and after school, and I am willing to meet with any student or parent upon scheduling. Please email in order to schedule a conference. Parents and teachers are partners in education at Trinity. Thank you!

Course Outline/Anticipated Topics:

- Quarter 1: **Michael Himes**
 The mystery of God
 The mystery of our identity
 What does it mean to be a product of our time?
 What does it mean to be a Christian today?
 What is vocation?
Dorothy Day
 Life Influences
 Experiences of Conversion
 How was she a product of her time?
 Restlessness
 Spirituality
 Sacramentality
 Historical context: Great Depression, Influence of Politics, Catholic Worker Movement,
- Quarter 2: **Malcolm X**
 Early Life
 Experiences of Conversion
 How was he a product of his time?
 Historical context: Civil Rights Movement, Jim Crow Segregation, Lynching & Racism
- Quarter 3: **The Alchemist**
 How do we figure ourselves out?
 Discernment
 Personal Vocation