

Catholic Social Teaching Semester Project

By **Dr. Katy Leamy**

Mt. Angel Seminary, St. Benedict, OR

Dialog and Communion

Attending to global solidarity by addressing the needs of local community

Overview

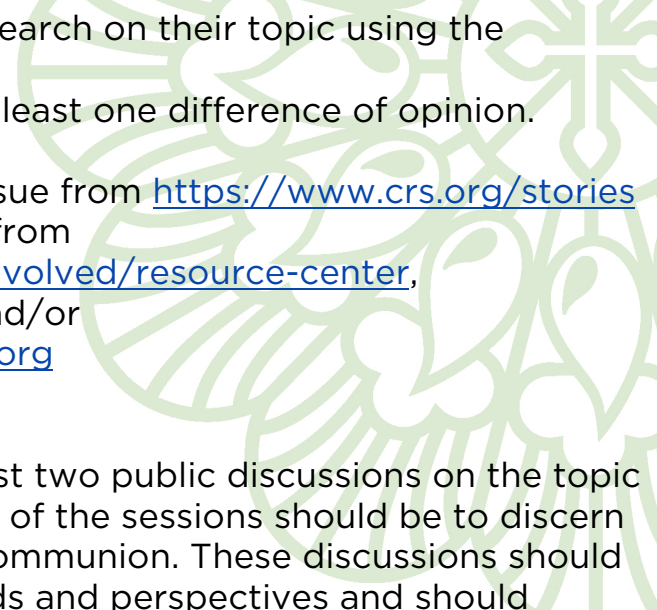
Students will develop a “Catholic Social Teaching” event for the seminary community. The event will address an issue of global solidarity manifested as a failure of communion within our own community. The event will flow from a semester-long process of discernment, prayer, and dialog in five stages:

1. Listening
2. Research
3. Dialogue
4. Prayer
5. Action

Students will work in groups of 3-5 members to conduct research, develop a strategy, pray, write, interview, and, ultimately, assist our community to better fulfill our vocation of communion with God and neighbor. Each stage of the project focuses on skills necessary for academic, human, spiritual, and pastoral formation. Students will learn to employ these skills in service of our local community and, with the help of resources from Catholic Relief Services, in service of our brothers and sisters around the globe.

Process

- 1 Listening:** Students will choose a topic through a process of listening and collaboration. Topics must confront an instance of failure to fully embrace communion in our own community, (not one perpetrated by someone “on the outside.”) The topic should directly relate to an analogous failure of communion on a global level. Groups will conduct at least two listening sessions with diverse participants to find an issue they wish to address.

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- 2 Research:** The group will conduct research on their topic using the following resources:
- At least **4** interviews including at least one difference of opinion.
 - At least **6** peer-reviewed articles.
 - At least **2** stories involving this issue from <https://www.crs.org/stories>
 - At least **2** educational resources from
 - <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center>,
 - <http://university.crs.org>, and/or
 - <https://www.sharejourney.org>
 - Assigned texts for the course.
- 3 Dialog:** The group will conduct at least two public discussions on the topic in preparation for the event. The goal of the sessions should be to discern possible responses to the failure of communion. These discussions should include people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives and should promote honest and respectful dialogue. The group will provide a set of discussion questions for the session, and moderate the session making sure that all voices are heard and respected.
- 4 Prayer:** Each member of the group should be in prayer over the chosen topic throughout the semester. They may use any method or style of prayer, but must utilize at least one prayer resource from Catholic Relief Services to inform it.
- 5 Action:** At some point in the semester each group will organize an event that addresses their issue in the following ways:
- **Education:** The group will explain the issue and why it constitutes a failure of communion according to the teaching of the Catholic Church. They will reveal how this issue is manifested specifically within our own community and how it connects to other communities around the world. They will include one principle of Catholic Social Teaching as an intellectual/spiritual corrective to the lack of communion. They may present their material—of their own creation--through a brochure, video, lecture, etc.
 - **Prayer:** The group will include prayer in some way within the event.
 - **Action:** The event should include possible means of conversion with respect to the issue for individuals and the community.
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Project Evaluation Criteria

Project Evaluation Criteria:

1. **Group Journal:** 30%
2. **Project Maps:** 15%
3. **Event Materials:** 30%
4. **Final Presentation:** 25%

- 1 Group Journal:** Each group will keep a shared journal (Google Docs works well) that they can use to track the content of group meetings, as well as individual thoughts and ideas. In addition to recording group work, the journal should include the following:
 - a. Notes on interviews and texts.
 - b. Questions/prompts used for your dialogue sessions.
 - c. Minutes from group meetings and any individual reflection/contributions.
 - d. Final self-evaluation
- 2 Project Maps:** At three times during the semester each group will present a “map” of their project to the class. Maps should include:
 - a. A roadmap of the project (an overview that measures progress towards completion including methods and goals).
 - b. Resources used and evaluation of resources
 - c. Self-reflection on how the project has evolved. (including anticipated challenges, dead ends, next steps, and preliminary outcomes.)

The group may present their map digitally or on a poster. Excellent maps will include a visual representation of your thought process, full citations of resources, and creative reflection on the state of the project. These maps will be presented to the class on due dates in 5 minutes or less.

- 3 Event Materials:** At the end of the semester each group will submit the following:
 - a. A 2/3-page description of the event including goal, methodology, and outcomes.
 - b. A copy of the educational material the group developed for the event.
 - c. A copy of the prayer used, or description of the prayer service.
 - d. A brief description of plans to follow-up on the event.
 - e. Bibliography
- 4 Final Presentation:** Each group will have 30 minutes to present to the class. They should address the following questions in an organized and creative manner:
 - a. What worked well?
 - b. What would you do differently next time?
 - c. How has the process changed your understanding and/or practice of Communion?
 - d. What are some insights/ideas you would like to share with the class?