

# MISSION CORE I

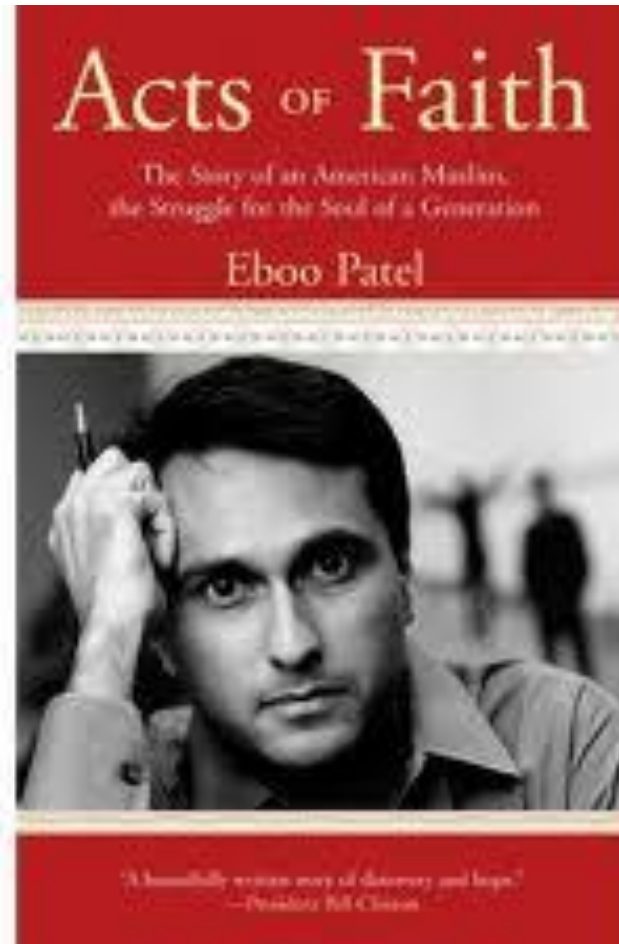
A Report on the First Year

# FORMAT

- ◉ MWF mornings; MW with instructors, F with Lee DeLaet
- ◉ Two honors sections
- ◉ One international section
- ◉ Seven instructors (Angie Dowell, Janine Duncan, Margaret Gilleo, Lisa Oliverio, Randy Rosenberg, Suzanne Stoelting, Corinne Taff), nine total sections
- ◉ Class rosters were aligned with orientation groups

# CONTENT

- ◉ Eboo Patel text shared across all sections
- ◉ Sections of Massaro's *Living Justice*
- ◉ See master list
- ◉ Not one common syllabus
- ◉ Emphasis on public education, public housing crises, public art, popular music, science ethics, consumerism
- ◉ Rebecca Skloot—*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*; Parker Palmer—*Leading from Within* two most common non-required readings
- ◉ Carondelet Panel discussion
- ◉ Sylvester Brown lecture
- ◉ Voting rights lecture



# EXCERPTS FROM FINAL STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- ◉ <http://prezi.com/xdtazojiapzk/my-affect-on-the-common-good/> (Prezi presentation by a graphic design student)
- ◉ “When it comes to the common good, what is good for one person might not be good for all people, but when it came to the movements that strived for the common good, I saw that their movement attempted to be good for all people....the common good is a journey and its journey is our lives....this has been one of my all-time favorite classes!”
- ◉ “Little did I expect that a required class about Catholic Social teaching would have such a profound effect upon me. The class title implied it would be similar to a Sunday school lesson...but to my surprise it wasn't. Each class discussion had many different views, and it's this accepted pluralism that resonated with me and made the class probably my favorite.” -a prelaw major
- ◉ “My newfound responsibility for the effects that my consumer habits have is empowering. Through taking this course I have learned that as an individual, my consumer habits are actually a way in which I can support practices I agree with and boycott practices I find unethical....From a secular perspective, this course has taught me that my purchases promote the practices of the companies I support, but from a religious perspective, this course has opened a new arena for me to act out my beliefs.” -a biology major

# EXCERPTS FROM FINAL STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- ◉ “I’ve never thought much about how I personally can promote the common good until very recently. At the beginning of the semester, I felt that my chosen major, fashion merchandising, was too shallow to promote the common good, and at time I felt guilty that I wasn’t choosing a career that could be more influential and positive. Various points in my semester began to break down [that] belief....This class has made me think harder and more in-depth than I ever imagined.” -a fashion merchandising major
- ◉ “This project made me realize that the most vulnerable are the uneducated.” -a speech pathology major
- ◉ “The content we have studied in Mission Core has influenced my decision possibly join the Peace Corps when I graduate from college.” -an art major
- ◉ “Every time I think that people here are different from the people in my country, Mission Core class proves to me that I am wrong.” -an international student

# AREAS OF STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

- ◉ Strengths included faculty collaboration (on content and outside activities), outside speakers, the Patel text, connection to mission, student interest, collaboration with Student Affairs, much higher first-year completion rate of INT 199
- ◉ Weaknesses included the separation of international students, dissatisfaction among honors students with the Friday component, conflicts with the biology lab times, lopsided honors enrollments, wanting more freedom in how to implement CST themes, tutorial for 199

# PLANS FOR FALL 2013

- ◉ Smaller initial class sizes to accommodate late-registering international students
- ◉ Addition of TRF afternoon sections along with MWF morning sections
- ◉ Jamaica Harris additional instructor
- ◉ Honors section on Friday afternoons only; will not include academic advising component
- ◉ Possible move to make *Massaro* text optional, to give instructors more freedom on how to incorporate CST themes
- ◉ Continued coordination with Student Affairs
- ◉ Coordinating of events with Juliet Schor visit
- ◉ “Tutorial day” for INT 199

# PLEASE JOIN US!

- ◉ We need additional instructors!
- ◉ Evening instructor (can be any evening that works for your schedule)
- ◉ At least one daytime instructor (MW 10:00 or TR 12:30)
- ◉ If you are interested, please be in touch with Corinne ASAP