WORLD RELIGIONS AND GLOBAL CONFLICT

LTR 5513 Fall 2012
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the relationship of major world faiths to global conflict. It covers three Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), three "Eastern" faiths (Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism in relation to contemporary conflicts in Israel-Palestine, Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, South Africa, Nigeria, the Sudan, Afghanistan, India, Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Tibet. The course considers how religions have been a source of violent conflict as well as a source of reconciliation and peacemaking. It also addresses theoretical and practical issues related to interfaith peace-building and profiles "peacemakers in action."

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify ways in which world religions have been a source of violent conflict as well as reconciliation and peacemaking.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the orientations of the world's major religious traditions toward war and peace.
3. Demonstrate awareness of the background, causes, dynamics, societal response, and solutions to contemporary examples of religious extremism and violence.
4. Articulate how peacemaking is relevant to their lives, faith and ministry or vocation.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Class participation (20%)
2. Completion of United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Online Certificate Course in "Interfaith Conflict Resolution" (20%)
3. Reflection paper (5-8 pgs.) (20%)
4. Final exam (40%)

Students are expected to attend and be active participants in all class sessions. Unexcused absences or tardiness will negatively affect final grades. Classes will include discussion and lecture formats. Students will be assigned to be resource persons on specific topics throughout the course. Students must finish the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) online certificate course on "Interfaith Conflict Resolution" (http://www.usip.org/education-training/courses-simulations) and complete the certificate exam prior to March 27. The instructor will provide an additional guideline for the reflection paper. It is due by May 22. The final exam will cover the entire course content and include a combination of objective and essay questions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a student passes off someone else's work as their own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's

paper, to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites, to handing in a paper downloaded from the Internet. This includes buying or submitting a paper written by a third party. All are considered forms of "plagiarism" and a violation of the Seminary's academic integrity policy. The student may repeat or fail the assignment. In cases of serious or repeated violations, the instructor has the option of having the student fail the course or of reporting the student to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions include probation, suspension or withdrawal.

READINGS

Required

Little, David, ed. *Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution*. Cambridge, 2007. ISBN 0-521-61894-0

Course Reader: A virtual course is available on session topics as noted in the course outline. These are under "Readings" for each session on the course's Google Sites.

Video Clips: Students are also responsible to view online video clips assigned on session topics in the course outline. Some will be viewed in class.

Not Required

References. The course outline provides additional readings on session topics in books listed in the course bibliography.

COURSE OUTLINE

1/30 **Course Introduction**

The Ambivalence of the Sacred, Sources of Religious Extremism, and Tools of Conflict Analysis

Reference: Appleby 28-34, 58-63, 72-78, 85-91,107-08,

2/6 **Patterns of Non-Violence and Violence in Judaism**

References: Ferguson 78-98; Smith-Christopher 144-70; Thompson 1-17;

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict I (Jewish/Muslim)

Req: *Peacemakers in Action*, 302-21, 375-81 or *Reader***,** "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Fraternal Feud"

Videos: "Occupation 101, Parts 1-9" (YouTube); "Who Is Wrong - Israel or Palestine?"

References: Appleby 81-85; Juergensmeyer 62-69; Little 310-21, 375-81; McTernan 106-22; Coward and Smith 170-78; Gopin 65-86; Johnston 91-102;; Smith-Christopher 144-70;

2/13 **Israeli-Palestinian Peacemakers in Action**

Req: *Peacemakers in Action*, "The Settler Who Spoke with Arafat," 321-74

Rec: *Peacemakers in Action*, "I Am Palestinian, Arab, Christian, and Israeli," 321- and "An Open House"

Videos: "Jews & Arabs co-existing In peace in Old Jerusalem (Rabbis Testifying to this Fact)"; "Jewish and Muslim Students Transforming Conflict?: "Encounter Point: Parents Family Forum" (YouTube)

Patterns of Violence and Non-Violence in Christianity
References: Ferguson 99-123; Coward and Smith 147-66; Thompson 18-36

2/20 **Northern Ireland** (Catholic/Protestant)
Req: *Peacemakers in Action* 53-61, 92-96 or *Reader***,** "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland: Sectarian Violence between Protestants and Catholics"
Videos: "Never Surrender" and "Walls of Shame," Parts 1-2 (YouTube)
References: Appleby 167-93; Coward and Smith 261-78; Smock 89-102; McTernan 78-91;

Northern Ireland Peacemakers
Req: *Peacmakers in Action*, "Men Who Walked the Street," 61-91

2/27 **Bosnia-Herzegovina** (Orthodox-Catholic-Muslim)
Req: *Peacemakers in Action* 97-106, 120-122;
Videos: "Veterans – Siege of Sarajevo, Parts 1-2" and "Srebrenica: Autopsy of a Massacre"
References: Appleby 64-78; Coward and Smith 213- 42; Smock 73-88; Johnston 124-177;

Bosnia-Herzegovina Peacemaker in Action
Req: *Peacemakers in Action*, "Would You Shoot Me, You Idiot," 106-19

3/6 **South Africa (**Black/White Christians)
Req: *Peaecmakers in Action* 215-25, 244-46 or *Reader***,** "Apartheid: Truth and Reconciliation?"
Video: "Archbishop Desmond Tutu Interview" "The Ones that Got Away" and "Effects of Apartheid Linger**"**
References: Appleby 34-40; Coward and Smith 243-60; Johnston 177-207;

South Africa Peacemaker in Action
Req: *Peacemakers in Action*, "The Non-Violent Deputy Minister of Defense," 225-43;
Video: Nozizwe Madlala Routledge, "Ubuntu" and "Working for Peace"

3/13 **Patterns of Non-Violence and Violence in Islam**
References: Ferguson 124-37; Coward and smith 129-46; Smith-Christopher 107-27; Thompson 37-58

Nigeria (Muslim-Christian)
Req: *Peacemakers in Action* 247-58, 275-77 or *Reader*, "Sharia Strife"
Video: "Sharia Law – Nigeria"; Sharia Law in Nigeria, 6 parts (YouTube)

3/20 **Nigeria Peacemakers in Action**
Req: *Peacemakers in Action*, "Warriors and Brothers," 259-74
Video: "The Imam and the Pastor"

Sudan (Muslim-Christian-Animist)
Req: *Peacemakers in Action,* "The Power of Ritual," 186-214 or *Reader***:** "A Case of Genocide?"
Video: "A History of Unity and Division in Sudan," "Persecuted Christians," "George Clooney on Today Show"
References: Johnston 210-227;

3/27 **Afghanistan** (Muslim-Muslim)
Req: *Peacemakers in Action*, "Underground Woman," 382-401; *Reader***,** "The Taliban's War against Modernity"
Video: "Taliban Woman Abuse," "Afghan Women's Rights," "Burning Hearts," "Sakena Yacoobi - Afghan Institute of Learning"
Reference: Juergensmeyer (1994) 124-33;

Islam in the West (Muslim-Christian/Modern Secular Culture)
Reference: TBA

USIP CERTIFICATE COURSE ON "INTERFAITH CONFLICT RESOLUTION" MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE 11/7 CLASS

4/3 **Non-Violence and Violence in Hinduism**
References: Ferguson 28-40; Coward and Smith 45-68; Smith-Christopher 57-75; Thompson 59-79

Babri Mosque (Hindu-Muslim)
Reader: "Communal Violence at the Babri Mosque"
Video: "Demolition of Babri Masjid"; "Babri Masjid revisited 17 years after the holy war," 5 parts; "Ivan Raskino Peacemaker in Action"
References: Appleby 108-14; Coward and Smith 50-55; Juergensmeyer 81-90; Johnston 56-70;

4/10 **Kashmir** (Hindu-Muslim)
Reader: "Nuclear Confrontation on the Roof of the World"
Video: "Kashmir Conflict" (5 parts), "Kashmir Conflict 2010," "The Killing of Kashmir" (2 parts)
, "Kashmir Caught In The Crossfire" (You Tube)

Kashmir Peacemaking
Reference: Johnston 33-71;

4/24 **Non-Violence and Violence in Buddhism**
References: Ferguson 41-61; Coward and Smith 69-75; Smith-Christopher 14-37; Thompson 91-113

Sri Lanka (Buddhist/Hindu)
Reader: "Buddhist Nationalism"
Video: "Sri Lanka: Living with Terror," "A Terrorist in the Family" (Frontline)
References: Coward and Smith 75-81; Johnson 76-90; Juergensmeyer 99-109; McTernan 92-106;

5/1 **Sri Lankan Peacemaking**
Reference: Queen and King, eds: 121-46

Myanmar (Buddhism/Dictatorial Regime)
Reader: "The Saffron Revolution"
Video: Burma: State of Fear (Frontline); Aung Sang Suu Ky on Non-Violence; Stallone, Carrey on Suu Ky (You Tube)
References: Appleby 123-43; Coward and Smith 191-211; Smith-Christopher 27-32;

5/8 **Patterns of Non-Violence and Violence in Confucianism**
Resources: Ferguson 62-77; Coward and Smith 93-110; Thompson 114-26

Tibet (Buddhism/Communism)
Reader: "Buddhism vs. Communism"
Video: "Tibet: autonomy or independence**"**
References: Coward and Smith 81-86;

5/15 **Tibet Peacemaker in Action**
Video: "Dalai Lama Interview," "Dalai Lama on the Middle Way," "Dalai Lama to Students in India"

Final Exam Review Session

5/22 **Final Exam**

BIBLIOGRAPHY (*On reserve)

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*Ferguson, John. *War and Peace in the World's Religions*. NY: Oxford, 1978.
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*Little, David, ed. *Peacemakers in Action*. Cambridge, 2007.
*McTernan, Oliver. *Violence in God's Name: Religion in an Age of Conflict*. Orbis, 2003.
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*Queen, Christopher S. & Sallie B. King. 1996. *Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia*. State University of New York Press. ISBN No. 0-7914-2844-3
*Schmidt-Leukel. *War and Peace in the World's Relgions*, 2004
Shriver, Donald. *An Ethic for Enemies: Forgiveness in Politics*. Oxford, 1995.

*Smith-Christopher, Daniel L., ed. *Subverting Hatred: The Challenge of Nonviolence in Religious Traditions*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2007.
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