

IPI5/715 (3) Religion and the Other

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan
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Office hours during term: by appointment

Purpose: This course offers an opportunity to receive credit for attending and participating in VST's Inter-Religious Studies Conference on the theme "Religious Constructions of the Other," May 15-17, 2015. Conference themes include portraits of religious others in traditional texts or popular media, conflict resolution strategies, theories of self/other, aspects of truth and reconciliation. Two additional class meetings will be held to discuss a book by the keynote speaker (Dr. Marc Gopin), learn to prepare formal academic responses to papers, and draw general lessons from the conference.

Competence Objectives:

Students will be expected to learn and demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify elements of religious traditions that contribute to conflict
- Identify elements of religious traditions resources that facilitate peacemaking
- Articulate complexities of identifying and approaching the religious "Other"
- Offer objective summary and critical assessment of scholarly papers

Format: Summer term 2016, 30 hours total. Attendance at Inter-religious Studies Conference, May 15 (evening), May 16 (day and evening), May 17 (day), for a total of 20 hours, plus one pre-conference class session, (May 6) and one post-conference class session (May 27) for a total of 10 hours.

Identification of the levels at which the course can be taken: Certificate, Basic (Diploma/MA/M.Div) or Advanced (Th.M).

Required reading:

1. Gopin, Marc. *To Make the Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009). (Reading due May 6.)
2. All papers presented at the conference. (Reading due May 27.)

Assignments:

For all students: (1) Full attendance at all events, as described above in "format." Attendance should be in accordance with VST policies; thoughtful, engaged participation in class discussion, course activities, and conference; completion of assigned readings. (2) One two-hour volunteer shift at the conference, e.g., greeting, registration, logistical support.

For certificate students only: A 750 word reflection paper on one important idea, theme, or presentation from the conference, due on May 27, at the post-conference class.

For basic-level students only: (1) A 750-word response to an assigned conference paper, to be reviewed by the instructor, revised if necessary, and presented at the conference. (2) A 3000-word paper, exploring interests related to the conference theme, referencing at least 5 conference papers, due on June 13, via email to ldkaplan@vst.edu.

For advanced-level students only: (1) A 750-word response to an assigned conference paper, to be reviewed by the instructor, revised if necessary, and presented at the conference. (2) A 4000-word paper, exploring interests related to the conference theme, referencing at least 5 conference papers and at least 5 additional sources due on July 11, via email to ldkaplan@vst.edu.

Prerequisites: None.

Selected bibliography:

Armstrong, Karen. *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. New York: Vintage Canada, 2011.

Brill, Alan. *Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Clooney, Francis X. *Comparative Theology: Deep Learning Across Religious Borders*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Ermine, Willie. "The Ethical Space of Engagement" *Indigenous Law Journal*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2007.

Gopin, Marc. *Between Eden and Armageddon: The Future of World Religions, Violence, and Peacemaking*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

Gopin, Marc. *To Make the Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.

Hedges, Paul and Alan Race. *Christian Approaches to Other Faiths*. SCM Press, 2009.

Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2003.

King, Thomas. *The Inconvenient Indian*. Doubleday Canada, 2012.

King, Ursula. *The Search for Spirituality: our global quest for a spiritual life*. New York: BlueBridge Books, 2008.

Lugones, Maria. "Playfulness, 'World'-Traveling and Loving Perception," *Hypatia*, vol. 2, no. 2, Summer 1987.

Nussbaum, Martha. *The New Religious Intolerance*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.

Prothero, Stephen. *God is not One: the eight rival religions that run the world and why their differences matter*. New York: HarperOne, 2010

Riebe-Estrella, Gary. "Engaging Borders: Lifting Up Difference and Unmasking Division." *Theological Education* 45:1 (2009).

Mead, Margaret. *20th Century Faith: hope and survival*. New York: Harper and Row, 1972.

Nicholson, Hugh. *Comparative Theology and the Problem of Religious Rivalry*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Shah-Kazemi, Reza. *The Other in the Light of the One: The Universality of the Qur'an and Interfaith Dialogue*. Islamic Texts Society, 2006.

Taylor, Charles and Kwame Anthony Appiah, eds. *Multiculturalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994.