IPI5/700 – IIS Integrating Seminar: Valued Wisdoms, New Conversations

Instructors:
Paula Sampson and Laura Duhan Kaplan

Purpose:
This seminar addresses the “inter” in “inter-religious studies.” Together, we will respectfully explore multiple approaches to understanding connections between the beliefs and practices of four world religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Indigenous North America. Approaches may include deep ecumenism, awareness of social complexity, shared study of sacred text, and exploration of shared action on shared concerns. Students will gain ideas and practical experience to respectfully collaborate and address issues and challenges with peers across and among wisdom traditions.

Competence Objectives:
Students will be expected to:
- Articulate commonalities and differences among the four enumerated religious traditions
- Demonstrate awareness of complexities and varieties of approach to some named issues among the religions
- Demonstrate respectful communication, capacity for dialogue and leadership skills in interactions with specific constituency groups from and among these religions
- Demonstrate awareness of critical community concerns within, among and between the religions
- Develop the ability to strategize and plan in the areas of conflict resolution and inter-religious and cross-cultural communication and education approaches

Format:
This weekend course meets on Friday-Saturday January 23-24, Feb 20-21, March 20-21, 2015 (please note: times will be during the day. Precise hours TBA). Class activities will include lecture, discussion, text study, reflective activities, field trips and short video presentations.

Identification of Levels at Which Course Can Be Taken:
Basic and advanced.

Required Reading:
Books:


Excerpts from the following texts, available on moodle:


*Journal of Inter-Religious Studies*, Winter 2014 (vol 13).


**Assignments:**

Attendance meeting VST policies, thoughtful preparation of assigned reading, attentive class participation, final 10-page paper or a project equivalent in scope demonstrating course competencies on a selected topic approved by the instructors. Advanced students in the Th.M. program will complete additional readings and assignments, determined in consultation with the instructors.

**Prerequisites:**

The course is designed for students in the IIS program who have completed at least 18 credit hours of prior study in the program’s core requirements. Students in other degree programs may take the course by permission of the instructors.

**Selected additional bibliography:**


