

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 American. 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:

Clooney, Francis X. *Comparative Theology: deep learning across religious borders*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Mackenzie, Don; Falcon, Ted; and Rahman, Jamal. *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi & an Imam*. Woodstock, VT: SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2012.

Excerpts from the following texts, available on moodle:

Deloria, Vine. *God is Red*, 30th Anniversary edn. Golden, Co: Fulcrum, 2003.

Fox, Matthew. *One River, Many Wells*. New York, NY: Tarcher/Penguin, 2004.

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

Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck and Esposito, John, eds. *Daughters of Abraham: Feminist Thought in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2002.

Rautenbauch, Ignatius; Kerber, Guillermo; and Stuckelberger, Christoph, eds., *Religions for Climate Justice: International Interfaith Statements 2008-2014*. Basel, Switzerland: Globalethics.net, 2014

Smart, Ninian and Hecht, Richard D., eds. *Sacred Texts of the World: A Universal Anthology*. New York, NY: Crossroad Publishing, 1984.

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:

Armstrong, Karen. *A History of God: the 4000 year quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. New York: Random House, 1993.

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

Martin, Joel. *The Land Looks After Us: a history of Native American religion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

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

Ochs, Peter. "The Society of Scriptural Reasoning: The Rules of Scriptural Reasoning." *The Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* 2:1 (May 2002).
<http://etext.virginia.edu/journals/ssr/issues/volume2/number1/ssr02-01-e01.html#introduction>.

Nabokov, Peter. *Where the Lightning Strikes: the lives of American Indian Sacred Places*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006.

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

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

Quash, Ben. "Deep Calls to Deep: The Practice of Scriptural Reasoning." *Modern Theology*. Special Issue on Scriptural Reasoning.
<http://www.scripturalreasoning.org/resources.php>

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

Schreier, Robert J. *Constructing Local Theologies*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1993.