Religious Pluralism  
NMC Summer School, 2015  
Monday July 20 - Friday July 24, 8:30-11:30 am  
Chapel of the Epiphany

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

Purpose:
Canada today practices “inclusive secularism,” welcoming multiple religious traditions into the public sphere. How should ministers working in Indigenous contexts, rooted in particular traditions, and confronting a history of oppression, participate in pluralism? Participants will explore answers, as together we examine different models of inter-faith connection, including common theological ground, awareness of social complexity, shared study of sacred text and story, and shared social action.

Competence Objectives:
• Summarize at least two approaches to inter-religious study  
• Summarize basic tenets of Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism  
• Articulate your own approach to inter-religious study  
• Articulate insights gained from inter-religious study  
• Articulate complexities of inter-religious study that arise from social context, power dynamics, and intra-religious issues

Required reading:
Book: please purchase.

Articles: available on course moodle
Assignments:

For M.Div. credit students:
(1) Reading, participation, and attendance in accordance with VST guidelines.
(2) Afternoon seminars with tutors with additional reading and discussion questions.
(3) One or two page daily journal entry. An equivalent requirement in the oral tradition can be negotiated with the instructor after the first class meeting.
(4) Final project due October 15, emailed to the instructor in Word or Pages format.

Project content: please research an idea or practice from Judaism, Islam, or Buddhism. The project should include the following components:
• the idea or practice
• what the practitioners understand its meaning to be
• your theoretical, cultural, or psychological approach to inter-religious study
• your insights and questions

Possible project formats:
• a written paper, 10-12 pages with ten references
• an oral presentation, recorded or offered to the instructor via phone/internet, 30 minutes followed by 30 minutes of conversation
• another format to be negotiated

For NMC students, not for M.Div. credit:
(1) Reading, participation, and attendance in accordance with VST guidelines.
(2) One or two page daily journal entry. An equivalent requirement in the oral tradition can be negotiated with the instructor after the first class meeting.

For auditing students
(1) Reading, participation and attendance are encouraged.
Course Schedule
MON JULY 20
Introductions to course, each other, inter-religious study
Reading: Ermine, Ethical Space

TUES JULY 21
Introduction to Islam
Reading: Chapter on “Islam,” in Prothero
Guest speaker: Imam Balal Khokhar (10:30 am)

WEDS JULY 22
Introduction to Judaism
Reading: Chapter on “Judaism” in Prothero

THURS JULY 23
Introduction to Buddhism
Reading: Chapter on “Buddhism” in Prothero
Field Trip: Tour Buddhist Temple in Richmond (leave 9:30 am for 10:30 tour)

FRI JULY 24
Discussions and conclusions
Reading: Lugones, “Playfulness, ‘World’-Traveling and Loving Perception”