

**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.*

Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. Chapters on “Islam,” “Judaism” and “Buddhism.”

*Articles: available on course moodle*

Ermine, Willie. “The Ethical Space of Engagement” *Indigenous Law Journal*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2007. (moodle)

Lugones, Maria. “Playfulness, ‘World’-Traveling and Loving Perception,” *Hypatia*, vol. 2, no. 2, Summer 1987. (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"