IPI5/715 (3) Religion and the Other

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan
Phone: 604-827-4742  Email: ldkaplan@vst.edu
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 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 & Littlfield, 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:


