

## **IPI5/710 (3) Encountering the Other**

**Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan**

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**Office hours during term: T,W, Th 1:00-6:00 pm & by appointment**

### **Purpose:**

This course encourages students to identify issues in multi-cultural communication, become aware of personal barriers, and develop skills for working with them. Students will be introduced to (1) critical concepts about the politics of identity and cultural complexes; (2) philosophical discussion of inner stances towards welcoming the other; and (3) practical techniques for listening and shared change. Discussions will emphasize Canadian cultural milieus, and faith-based contexts.

### **Competence Objectives:**

Drawn from the IIS program:

- Articulate theoretical perspectives on the social dynamics of identity and prejudice
- Demonstrate personal awareness of these dynamics
- Articulate and demonstrate practices and strategies for respectful communication
- Articulate tensions and respectful approaches around inter-cultural issues such as collision, appropriation, and assimilation
- Develop the ability to strategize and plan in the areas of conflict resolution and inter-religious and cross-cultural communication and education approaches

**Format:** The course meets:

*In the classroom and via Adobe Connect:*

Th Jan 18, 6:00-9:00 pm

Th Feb 1, 6:00-9:00 pm

Th Mar 15, 6:00-9:00 pm

Th Mar 22, 6:00-9:00 pm

Th Mar 29, 6:00-9:00 pm

*At VST's on-site intensive:*

Th Feb 15, 6:00-9:00 pm

Fri Feb 16, 10:00am-5:00 pm

Sat Feb 16, 10:00am-5:00 pm

Mon Feb 18, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Classroom activities will include lecture, discussion, reflective writing, small and large group-activities. The intensive weekend will also include group presentations by students and a field trip.

**Identification of Levels at Which Course Can Be Taken:** Audit, Certificate, Basic and Advanced.

**Required Reading Posted on Moodle, listed below by topic:**

Please note: scheduling of topics may change slightly; you will be notified!

*Classes before the On-site intensive: Introduction to Encounter*

Bohm, David. "On Dialogue," and "Participatory Thought and the Unlimited" in *On Dialogue* (New York: Routledge), 2004.

Mackenzie, Falcon, Rahman, "The Interfaith Journey" in *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith* (Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths), 2009.

*Classes during the On-site intensive: Philosophy, Reconciliation, Field Trip*

*For Laura's philosophical introduction:*

Levinas, Emmanuel. "The Name of a Dog or Natural Rights" in *Difficult Freedom*, trans. Sean Hand. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.

*For student presentations: Please read your assigned chapter in advance; groups will prepare in class.*

Abram, David. "Maurice Merleau-Ponty and the Participatory Nature of Perception" in *The Spell of the Sensuous* (New York: Vintage Books), 1997.

Buber, Martin. "I and Thou" (excerpt) in *The Martin Buber Reader*, ed. Asher D. Biemann (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 2002.

De Beauvoir, Simone. "Introduction," in *The Second Sex* (New York: Vintage Books), 1989/1952

Duhan Kaplan, "Escape from Solipsism" in *Family Pictures: A Philosopher Explores the Familiar* (Chicago: Open Court) 1998.

*For Ray Aldred's class on Reconciliation*

Mackey, Eva. "The Apologizer's Apology" in *Reconciling Canada: Critical Perspectives on the Culture of Redress*, ed. Jennifer Henderson and Pauline Wakeham (Toronto: University of Toronto Press), 2013.

McCall, Sophie. "My Story is a Gift: The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Politics of Reconciliation" in *First Person Plural: Aboriginal Storytelling and the Ethics of Collaborative Authorship* (Vancouver: UBC Press), 2011.

*Classes after the On-site intensive: Social and Cultural Issues*

Adwan, Sami; Dan Bar-On; and Eyal Naveh, "Balfour Declaration" in *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine* (New York: Peace Research Institute in the Middle East), 2012

Duhan-Kaplan, Laura "Holocaust Complex of American Jews" (unpublished), 2103

Gopin, Marc. "Between Religion and Conflict Resolution" *Between Eden and Armageddon: The Future of World Religions, Violence and Peacemaking* (Toronto: Oxford University Press), 2000.

Juergensmeyer, Mark. "Cosmic War" in *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence* (Berkeley: University of California Press), 2003.

Said, Edward. "Knowing the Oriental" in *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books), 1979.

**Assignments:**

For all students:

- Attendance meeting VST policies
- attentive class participation

Additional for all students in certificate or degree programs:

- thoughtful preparation of assigned reading
- three 500-word reflection papers, due after each course unit (before intensive, intensive, after intensive), specific dates and topics TBA
- one in-class group presentation

Additional for Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIIS):

- A 3000-word final paper on a topic of the student's choice, demonstrating course competencies, and involving research (5 sources) beyond the assigned course readings.

Additional for Advanced-level students (Th.M.):

- A 4000-word final paper on a topic of the student's choice, demonstrating course competencies, and involving significant research (10 sources) beyond the course readings.

**Prerequisites:** None