

Religious Pluralism, ISP Summer School, 2018
Monday July 23 - Friday July 27, 9:00 am-12:00 noon

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan

Phone: 604-827-4742 Email: ldkaplan@vst.edu Office hours: 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 survey three non-Christian traditions, examine different models of inter-faith and Indigenous/non-Indigenous connection, and speak in-depth with one another.

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 acquire in hardcopy or e-book format (kindle, kobo, google play):

Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. We will read 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.

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

Assignments:

For M.Div. credit students:

- (1) Reading, participation, and attendance in accordance with VST guidelines.
- (2) Afternoon seminars with tutors with additional discussion/reading questions.
- (3) One or two page daily journal entry, due by email to the instructor each evening. 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 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 ISP Certificate students:

- (1) Reading, participation, and attendance in accordance with VST guidelines.
- (2) One or two page daily journal entry, emailed daily to the instructor. An equivalent requirement in the oral tradition can be negotiated with the instructor after the first class meeting.

For auditing students:

- (1) Attendance in at least 60% of class sessions.
- (2) Participation and reading, are encouraged.

Course Schedule

MON JULY 23

Introductions to course, each other, inter-religious study

Reading: Ermine, *Ethical Space*

TUES JULY 24

Introduction to Islam

Reading: Chapter on "Islam," in Prothero

Guest speaker: TBA (10:30 am)

WEDS JULY 25

Introduction to Judaism

Reading: Chapter on "Judaism" in Prothero

THURS JULY 26

Introduction to Buddhism

Reading: Chapter on "Buddhism" in Prothero

Field Trip: Tour Buddhist Temple in Richmond (leave 10:00 am for 11:00 am tour)

FRI JULY 27

Discussions and conclusions

Reading: Lugones, "Playfulness, 'World'-Traveling and Loving Perception"