

**DRAFT – subject to changes: final version will be distributed
on the first day of class**

Thursday: 11:00-1:00 pm

Instructor: Thomas E. Reynolds
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[People] never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.
Blaise Pascal

Good people will do good things. Bad people will do bad things. But for good people to do bad things, that takes religion.

Steven Weinberg

No peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among religions without dialogue between the religions.

Hans Küng

Course Description

This course explores the complex relationship between theological reflection and violence and peace, particularly in Christian traditions. Theories of violence and non-violence as well as case studies from the past and present will provide the means to investigate the ways faith-based claims justify or promote enmity and hostility and/or hospitality and peacemaking in Christian practice. Attention is given to violence/peace in connection with theologies of revelation; just war and pacifist traditions; gender, race, ethnicity, class, and disability; histories of colonization; interfaith relations (particularly Abrahamic); and the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Required Course Texts

- Brooks Thistlethwaite, Susan. ed., *Interfaith Just Peacemaking* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)
- Helmick, Raymond G. and Rodney Lawrence Petersen (eds.). *Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Religion, Public Policy, & Conflict Transformation*. Templeton Foundation Press, 2002
- Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl A. *Violence and Theology*. Abingdon Press, 2006
- Lederach, John Paul. *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*. Oxford University Press, 2005
- Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*. Orbis, 2000.
- Steffen, Lloyd. *Holy War, Just War: Exploring the Moral Meaning of Religious Violence*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2007

Other required and recommended reading will be available on reserve in the Emmanuel College library or distributed online via the Portal.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

--The student completing this course will be able to:

1. Identify scriptural sources of violence and peace.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the character of theological reflection as practice oriented.
3. Indicate a critical awareness of how theology can function to legitimate hostility toward others and/or sanction violent conflict (e.g., colonialism, misogyny, racism, anti-Semitism, Just War Theory, Empire, etc.).
4. Recognize salient theological themes related to peace and explain their role in promoting peaceful practices and right relations.
5. Show facility in analyzing the roots and consequences of violence and peace in various socio-political contexts.
6. Begin articulating their own theology of peace and reconciliation.
7. Recognize sources of violence in oneself and one’s community
8. Articulate personal/spiritual habits of peace in relation to oneself and others
9. Recognize communal practices of conflict resolution and peace making
10. Exhibit the capacity to participate as a citizen in a theological community:
 - displaying empathetic and critical thinking in reading, speaking, and writing...
 - demonstrating initiative in research and critical appraisal of sources used...
 - communicating responsibly, carefully, and clearly...
 - framing and developing theological arguments supported with evidence...
 - showing an awareness of oneself as an interpreter...
 - exhibiting tolerance for ambiguity while remaining genuinely committed

Class-Time Format

The basic arrangement of time in class will be that of lecture-presentation-discussion. Mainly, the course will operate in a seminar format, oriented toward discussing texts and themes in an interactive and open environment. Lectures will be offered to introduce, help clarify, and expand the context and substance of topics/materials. Class presentations from students will provide a way to introduce the readings and ask key questions to generate discussion (see Course Requirements, below, for more information).

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Class Attendance and Participation.....	15%
2. Class Presentation.....	20%
3. Book Analysis.....	25%
4. Case Study / Research Paper.....	40%

1. *Regular attendance and informed participation* in class is an important part of the learning experience. More than three absences may result in loss of course credit. Because discussion is a key part of the class, nurturing an engagement with course materials, your questions and comments are valued and will be a factor in the overall grade. Readings for each class will be discussed on the basis of student questions and classroom interaction in response to presentations and/or lectures. To this end, it is expected that you will have done the readings, critically reflected upon them, and be prepared to contribute substantively. Careful reading is fundamental to informed participation, so journaling or note taking while reading is encouraged.

2. *Class Presentation*. At each class session, one or two students, by pre-arrangement with the instructor, will initiate discussion by referring to salient points in the week's reading assignments, then raising two or three questions to generate conversation over important issues/themes. BD students should address the class for approximately 10 minutes (or 15 minutes, total, if two students present). AD students should prepare a more substantive presentation, guiding the class through key elements in the readings and highlighting salient implications, for approximately 20 minutes.

3. *Book Assessment* (5 pages for BD students, and 8 pages for AD students). This assignment, due no later than October 20th, asks students to select a text from the list to be provided by the instructor and analyze its salient argument(s) or theme(s), identifying the context for the writing and assessing the text's relevance and credibility.

- BD students are invited to engage the book in a 'reflective style' that draws from personal experience or vision of ministry, and draws out important implications.
- AD students are invited to adopt a critical perspective that engages the books argument and assesses its merit.

4. *Case Study / Research Paper* (12-15 pages for BD students, and 20-25 pages for AD students). This paper, due no later than December 14th at 4:00pm, should focus on a case study, figure(s), topic, or movement germane to the course and investigate, analyze, and appraise its implications. The assignment is both integrative and research oriented; it offers the flexibility to research a particular case, topic or issue of interest to the student, while also requiring the student to assess the relevance of the research to some of the materials read/discussed during the semester, drawing their own conclusions in the process.

Paper assignments should be clearly organized, well-documented, critical in scope, substantive in analysis and in assessing materials, careful in formulating evaluative claims, and prudent in applications. Excellent papers will not simply 'state' but 'show' their case, based upon an informed consideration of what is at stake. Excellent papers will demonstrate creative insight and provide reasons for claims, backing up these reasons with solid evidence while also noting the ranges of uncertainty and/or ambiguity in referencing evidence, noting potential counter arguments.

Papers should observe Emmanuel College academic regulations and policies, and note the "Other Qualities Expected of Students" in "The T.S.T. Grading Scale Used at Emmanuel College" for criteria for evaluation of assignments (found in 2008-09 edition of *Handbook of Information for Basic Degree Students*). More information about writing papers can be found at the web site "Writing at the University of Toronto" at www.utoronto.ca/writing/.

Specific Policies

-*Grading*: Grades will follow the TST grading scheme. See TST web site or BD Handbook.

-*Email assignments*: Emailed assignments will **not** be accepted except in rare cases with the prior permission of the instructor

-*Accessibility and disability policy*:

Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Office as soon as possible. It takes time to put disability related accommodations in place. The sooner you meet with a Disability Counselor at Accessibility Services, the quicker they can assist you to achieving your learning goals in this course. See the UT web site: <http://www.sa.utoronto.ca/details.php?wscid=4>.

--COURSE SCHEDULE--

Week One / September 15: Introduction to the Course -- No readings.

Week Two / September 22: Theology and Violence?

- Required Reading:
 - Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl A. *Violence and Theology*, ch. 1
 - Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*, ch. 1
 - Steffen, Lloyd. *Holy War, Just War*, ch. 1
- Recommended Reading:
 - Girard, René. *The Girard Reader*, chs. 1-3
 - Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*, ch. 2
 - Reynolds, Thomas. "Creative Desire for God: Mimesis beyond Violence in Monotheism," in *Creative Mimesis*, ed. Vern Neufeld Redekop (2014, Lexington Books), 171-197

Week Three / September 29: Religion—Life Giving and Destructive?

- Steffen, Lloyd. *Holy War, Just War*, chs. 2-3
- Cavanaugh, William T. "Does Religion Cause Violence?" *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol. 35, No. 2 & 3 (Spring/Summer 2007) (online)
- Recommended Reading:
 - Helmick, Raymond G. and Rodney Lawrence Petersen (eds.). *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*, chs. 4-5
 - McTernan, Oliver. *Violence in God's Name: Religion in an Age of Conflict*

Week Four / October 6: Violence in Biblical and Cultural Narratives

- Required Reading:
 - Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl A. *Violence and Theology*, chs. 2-4
 - Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*, ch. 3
- Recommended Reading:
 - Nelson-Pallmeyer, Jack. *Is Religion Killing Us: Violence in the Bible and the Quran*, chs. 3-5

Week Five / October 13: Legacies of Christian Theology and Violence (1) -- Early and Medieval Conceptions and Encounters

- Required Reading:
 - Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*, chs. 4-5
 - Steffen, Lloyd. *Holy War, Just War*, chs. 5-6
- Recommended Reading:
 - Pawlikowsky, John T., "Christian Anti-Semitism: Past History, Present Challenges," *Journal of Religion and Society* 1/2004 (online)

Week Six / October 20: Legacies of Christian Theology and Violence (2) – Representations of and Encounters with Indigenous Peoples: “Doctrine of Discovery”

- Required Reading:
 - Williams Jr., Robert A., *Savage Anxieties: The Invention of Western Civilization*, Introduction, chs. 8, 10 and 12
 - Robert J. Miller, Jacinta Ruru, Larissa Behrendt, and Tracey Lindberg. *Discovering Indigenous Lands* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), ch. 1
- Recommended Reading:
 - Miller, et. al., *Discovering Indigenous Lands*, ch. 4, “The Doctrine of Discovery in Canada”

October 24-28: Reading Week

Week Seven / November 3: Pacifism and Non-Violent Resistance

- Required Reading:
 - Steffen, Lloyd. *Holy War, Just War*, chs. 4, 7
 - King Jr., Martin Luther. “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (online)
 - Gandhi, Mohandas K. (online) http://gandhi-manibhavan.org/gandhiphilosophy/philosophy_nonviolence_nonviolence.htm
- Recommended Reading:
 - Hauerwas, Stanley. “Explaining Christian Non-Violence” and “Christian Peace: A Conversation with John Milbank,” in *Must Christianity be Violent? Reflections on History, Practice and Theology*, eds. Kenneth Chase and Alan Jacobs (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2003) (online)
 - Helmick, Raymond G. and Rodney Lawrence Petersen (eds.). *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*, ch. 15
 - Bainton, Ronald H. *Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace: A Historical Survey and Critical Re-Evaluation*

Week Eight / November 10: Theology toward Peace (1)

- Required Reading:
 - Lederach, John Paul. *The Moral Imagination*, chs. 1-7
- Recommended Reading:
 - Welch, Sharon D. *Real Peace, Real Security: The Challenges of Global Citizenship*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008), chs. 1-2

Week Nine / November 17: Theology toward Peace (2)

- Required Reading:
 - Lederach, John Paul. *The Moral Imagination*, chs. 8-15
- Recommended Reading:
 - Welch, Sharon D. *Real Peace, Real Security: The Challenges of Global Citizenship*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008), chs. 3-4

Week Ten / November 24: Interreligious Dialogue toward Peace

- Required Reading:
 - Thistlethwaite, Introduction and chs. 1-3
 - Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*, chs. 7-8
- Recommended Reading:
 - Lefebure, Leo D. *Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*, ch. 6
 - Reynolds, Thomas. "Toward a Wider Hospitality: Rethinking Love of Neighbour in Religions of the Book," *Irish Theological Quarterly*, 75/2 (2010): 175-87
 - Reynolds, Thomas. "Beyond Extremism: Muslim-Christian Dialogue in a Post 9/11 Era," *Théologiques* 19/2 (2011): 41-64

Week Eleven / December 1: Nurturing Interreligious Dialogue

- Required Reading:
 - Thistlethwaite, chs. 4, 5, 6, 10
 - Barnett, Victoria. "Beyond Complicity: The Challenges for Christianity after the Holocaust," in *Must Christianity be Violent*, ch. 6 (online)
 - George E. Tinker, "American Indian Liberation: Paddling a Canoe Upstream," in *The Reemergence of Liberation Theologies*, ed. Thia Cooper (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013) (online)
- Recommended Reading:
 - McDaniel, Jay. *Gandhi's Hope: Learning from Other Religions as a Path to Peace*

Week Twelve / December 8: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- Required Reading:
 - Helmick, Raymond G. and Rodney Lawrence Petersen (eds.). *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*, chs. 1, 2, 8, 10, 13, 18
 - Lori Ransom and Mark MacDonald, "Systematic Evil and the Church: How does a Church Repent?" *Forum Mission* 10/2014 (online)
 - TRC Report: *What We Have Learned: Principles of Truth and Reconciliation* (113-26) (online)
- Recommended Reading:
 - De Gruchy, John W. *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice*
 - Ecumenical Working Group on Residential Schools, *Reflections to Spark Conversation on Christian Theology* (online)

Select Bibliography

- Allison, James. *Faith Beyond Resentment*. New York: Crossroad, 2001.
- _____. *The Joy of Being Wrong*. New York: Herder and Herder, 1998.
- Appleby, Scott R. *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000.
- Bainton, Ronald H. *Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace: A Historical Survey and Critical Re-Evaluation*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2008.
- Boersma, Hans. *Violence, Hospitality, and the Cross*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004.
- Borer, Tristan Anne. *Telling the Truths: Truth Telling and Peace Building in Post-Conflict Societies*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Boulding, Elise. *Cultures of Peace: The Hidden Side of History*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000.
- Carroll, James. *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews—A History*. New York: Mariner Books, 2001.
- Cavanaugh, William T. *Torture and Eucharist: Theology, Politics, and the Body of Christ*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.
- _____. *The Myth of Religious Violence: Secular Ideology and the Roots of Modern Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Childs, James M. *The Way of Peace: Christian Life in Face of Discord*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.
- Claus, Robert G. and Alan Jacobs, eds. *Must Christianity Be Violent?: Reflections on History, Practice, and Theology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007.
- Cooper White, Pamela. *The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and the Church's Response*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Cortwright, David. *Gandhi and Beyond: Nonviolence for an Age of Terrorism*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2006.
- Crossan, John Dominic. *God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now*. New York: HarperOne, 2007.
- De Gruchy, John W. *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.
- De Vries, Hent. *Religion and Violence: Philosophical Perspectives from Kant to Derrida*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2002.
- Deer, John. *Put down Your Sword: Answering the Gospel Call to Creative Nonviolence*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2008.
- _____. *God of Peace: Toward a Theology of Non-violence*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- Douglas, James W. *The Non-Violent Cross: A Theology of Revolution and Peace*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006.
- Gandhi, Mahatma. *Mohandas Gandhi: Essential Writings*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Gebara, Ivone. *Out of the Depths: Women's Experience of Evil and Salvation*. Trans. Ann Patrick Ware. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.
- Girard, René. *The Girard Reader*. Ed. James G. Williams. New York: Crossroad, 1996.
- Groody, Daniel G. *Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice: Navigating the Path to Peace*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2007.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. *The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics*. Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 1991.
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- Hewitt Suchocki, Majorie. *Fall to Violence*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. 3rd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003
- Juergensmeyer, Mark and Margo Kitts, eds. *Princeton Readings in Religion and Violence*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.
- Johnson, Kristen Deede. *Theology, Political Theory, and Pluralism: Beyond Tolerance and Difference*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Kaplan, Benjamin J. *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe*. Harvard, MA: Belknap Press, 2007
- Katongole, Emmanuel and Chris Rice, *Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008
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- Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, from Christian Militias to al Qaeda*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.
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- McTernan, Oliver. *Violence in God's Name: Religion in an Age of Conflict*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2003.
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- _____. *Is Religion Killing Us: Violence in the Bible and the Quran*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2003.
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