

**IP-611 Peace, Justice and Violence in Sacred Texts  
Hartford Seminary**

**Spring 2022  
Tuesdays, 7-9:50pm  
Hybrid Synchronous Course  
Room 206**

**Course Description**

Students in this course will examine sources from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Quran that relate to peace, justice and violence. Students will analyze sacred texts in their original socio-historical contexts, and will explore diverse ways Jewish, Christian and Muslim sources confront and interpret these texts. Students will take a case study approach to investigate how texts from all three Abrahamic traditions can and have been used to legitimate violent conflict and injustice toward others in real-life settings (e.g., empires, religious persecution, colonialism, misogyny, racism, and Anti-Semitism), as well as how they can and have been used to promote peaceful practices and just relations (peace movements, provision of care for the poor and sick by religious orders and communities, peaceable co-existence and cooperation with religious and ethnic others, liberation and justice movements).

**Relevant Program Learning Outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that includes attention to their origins, ritual practices, theologies, organizational forms, and internal diversity.
- Analyze concepts of peace, justice and violence in the sacred scriptures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, explaining how the scriptures of each religion have been used to promote both violence and peaceful relations, both oppression and justice.
- Reflect on the experience of getting to know people of other faiths and experiencing substantive dialog with others who view the world differently than you do.
- Connect the concepts of conflict transformation to the concepts of justpeace, positive peace and negative peace.
- Critique your own faith's teachings, history, and leadership in terms of their contributions towards peace and their role in injustice.
- Identify scriptures, theologies, and exemplary figures from Judaism, Christianity and Islam contributing to traditions of nonviolence.
- Interrogate your own biases and their impact on peacebuilding practices.
- Define moral imagination and identify examples of it. Recognize patterns of injustice from your home community which may require moral imagination to transform.

**Experiential Components:**

- Use of current events for case study work
- Dialogues using Reflective Structured Dialogue methodology on 1-2 hot button issues
- Guest Lecturers
- Films

## List of Texts

### **Required**

NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS. Students will be provided with electronic copies of required readings, either through DTL, or in PDF format;

### **Recommended Reading**

- Allen, Susan Jane, and Emilie Amt, eds. *The Crusades: A Reader*. Vol. 8. University of Toronto Press, 2014
- Belew, Kathleen. *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*, HUP, 2019.
- Bergen, Doris L. *War and genocide: A concise history of the Holocaust*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009.
- Cavanaugh, William T. *The myth of religious violence: Secular ideology and the roots of modern conflict*. OUP USA, 2009.
- Cobb, Paul M. *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*. Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Collins, John Joseph. *Does the Bible justify violence?*. Fortress Press, 2004.
- Desjardins, Michell. *Peace, Violence and the New Testament*,
- Ebner, Julia; *Going Dark: The Secret Social Lives of Extremists*. Bloomsbury, 2021.
- Eisen, Robert. *The Peace and Violence of Judaism: From the Bible to Modern Zionism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- Heft, James; *Beyond Violence: Religious Sources of Social Transformation in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2004).
- Malik, Aftab Ahmad (ed.). *The State We Are In: Identity, Terror and the Law of Jihad* (2006).
- Murphy, Andrew R. (ed.). *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence*. Blackwell, 2011.
- Nelson-Pallmeyer, Jack., *Is Religion Killing Us: Violence in the Bible and the Quran* (Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2003).
- Niditch, Susan, *War in the Hebrew Bible*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993.
- ODonnell, Emma Polyakov. *Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Interreligious Hermeneutics*, Brill, 2018.
- Osborne, Carly (ed.). *Does Religion Cause Violence? Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Violence and Religion in the Modern World*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.
- Raheb, Mitri. *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2014).
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. Penguin, 1994.
- Sells, Michael A. *The bridge betrayed: Religion and genocide in Bosnia*. Vol. 11. Univ of California Press, 1996.

## Class Requirements

- **Pre-reading:** If you have not formally studied any of Judaism, Christianity or Islam in the past, then read a basic introduction to these religions, from the following book or any other comparable textbook:
  - John Esposito, Darrel Fasching & Todd Lewis, *Religions of the West Today* (Oxford University Press, 2017), or Chapters 3, 4, 5 from the book *World Religions Today* by the same authors
  - Mary Pat Fisher, *Living Religions*, chapter 8, 9, 10.
  - Tamara Sonn & John Morreall, *The Religion Toolkit: A Complete Guide to Religious Studies* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), chapter 6 (Western Monotheisms)
- **EVALUATION**

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| <b>Attendance</b>                                  | <b>10%</b> |
| <b>In-Class Presentations</b>                      | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Forum Discussions &amp; Class Participation</b> | <b>35%</b> |
| <b>Reaction papers (THREE)</b>                     | <b>30%</b> |

- **Attendance:** Class is held weekly. You must attend class regularly and promptly, either in-person, or remotely if you signed up for this modality. More than two absences will reduce your grade in the course, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- **Presentations:** Students will be assigned to groups of 2-3, and from Weeks 5-13, each group will take a turn presenting on the case-study (or some aspect or manifestation of it) listed for that week. Presentations should be 20-30 mins, and should show that you have all read the relevant material closely and pondered on the relevant issues.
- **Forum Discussions:** Each student will post TWO reflections per week. One reflection should be **100-250** words, to the Online Forums, and should show that the student has read and thought about the assigned readings(s) for that week. The other reflection should be **50-100** words and should be a response to another student's posts. Please note that postings that are too long, or too short, will lose points.
- **Reaction Papers:** Each student will, working individually, submit 3 reflection papers over

the course of the semester. Each paper should be **1000-1500** words long.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism, the failure to give proper credit for the words and ideas of another person, whether published or unpublished, is strictly prohibited. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; where the words and ideas of others are used they must be acknowledged. Additionally, if students receive editorial help with their writing they should also acknowledge it appropriately. For more details on the Seminary's Plagiarism policy, see:

<https://www.hartsem.edu/current-students/policies/>

### CLASS OUTLINE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

*Note that the readings below may change, and in the case of books, only a part of the book will usually be assigned.*

| CLASS # |       | TOPIC   | READINGS  |
|---------|-------|---|---|
| 1       | 01/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Ground rules.</li><li>• Justice</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cavanaugh, William T. <i>The myth of religious violence: Secular ideology and the roots of modern conflict</i>. OUP USA, 2009.</li><li>• M. Kelley, <i>Religion and Justice: The Volcano and the Terrace</i>, Review of Religious Research, Vol. 26, No. 1</li><li>• Maurice Friedman, <i>Social Responsibility in Judaism</i>, Journal of Religion and Health , Oct., 1962, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Oct., 1962), pp. 42-60</li><li>• David Cloutier, "Justice," in <i>Redemption and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Restorative Justice</i>, eds. McCarthy, David Matzko, et al. (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2017), 3-20.</li><li>• Ahmad Zaki Yamani, <i>social Justice in Islam</i>, Islamic Studies , Spring 2002, Vol. 41, No. 1 (Spring 2002), pp. 5-34</li></ul> |
| 2       | 01/25 | Justice and Violence in the Hebrew Bible  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Niditch, Susan, <i>War in the Hebrew Bible</i>, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993.</li><li>• Robert Eisen, <i>The Peace and Violence of Judaism: From the Bible to Modern Zionism</i>, chapter 2 (The Bible)</li></ul>  |

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| 3 | 02/01 | Justice and Violence in the Christian New Testament | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collins, John Joseph. <i>Does the Bible justify violence?</i>. Fortress Press, 2004.</li> <li>• Michell Desjardins, <i>Peace, Violence and the New Testament</i>, chapter 3 (Violence in the New Testament)</li> </ul>  |
| 4 | 02/08 | Justice and Violence in the Qur'an and Hadith       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malik, Aftab Ahmad (ed.). <i>The State We Are In: Identity, Terror and the Law of Jihad</i> (2006): 14-31.</li> <li>• Afsaruddin, Asma. "Islam and Violence: Debunking the Myths." <i>Does Religion Cause Violence?: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Violence and Religion in the Modern World.</i> . New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. 147–166.</li> </ul>  |
| 5 | 02/15 | The Crusades  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allen, Susan Jane, and Emilie Amt, eds. <i>The Crusades: A Reader</i>. Vol. 8. University of Toronto Press, 2014</li> <li>• Cobb, Paul M. <i>The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades</i>. Oxford University Press, 2014.</li> <li>• Hillenbrand, Carole. <i>The crusades: Islamic perspectives</i>. Routledge, 2018.</li> <li>• An Arab-Syrian gentleman and warrior in the period of the Crusades: memoirs of Usāmah ibn-Munqidh (Kitāb al-I'tibār)</li> </ul> |
| 6 | 02/22 | Colonization and its Legacy                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i></li> <li>• "The Great Dying"<br/><a href="https://historicipswich.org/2021/04/21/the-great-dying/">https://historicipswich.org/2021/04/21/the-great-dying/</a></li> </ul>   |
| 7 | 03/01 | Holocausts: Religious, Ethnic and others            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bergen, Doris L. <i>War and genocide: A concise history of the Holocaust</i>. Rowman &amp; Littlefield Publishers, 2009.</li> <li>• Sells, Michael A. <i>The bridge betrayed: Religion and genocide in Bosnia</i>. Vol. 11. Univ of California Press, 1996.</li> </ul>  |
| 8 | 03/08 | Terrorism and Extremists                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malik, Aftab Ahmad (ed.). <i>The State We Are In: Identity, Terror and the Law of Jihad</i> (2006)</li> <li>• Roxanne L. Euben, Muhammad Qasim Zaman, <i>Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought</i>, chapter 18 (Usama Bin Laden)</li> </ul>  |

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| 9  | 03/15 | The Holy Land today<br>3 speaker panel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Film: <u>Afterwards</u> by Ofra Bloch. You can see a short video about it here:<br/><a href="https://www.facebook.com/NowThisPolitics/videos/2694077744040167">https://www.facebook.com/NowThisPolitics/videos/2694077744040167</a></li> <li>Leonard A. Gordon, <i>Indian Nationalist Ideas about Palestine and Israel</i>, Jewish Social Studies , Summer - Autumn, 1975, Vol. 37, No. 3/4 (Summer - Autumn, 1975), pp. 221-234</li> <li>Mitri Raheb, <i>Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes</i> (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2014).</li> </ul> |
| 10 | 03/22 | Misogyny                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>On Being a Jewish Feminist</i>,</li> <li>Darr, Kathryn Pfisterer. Far more precious than jewels: Perspectives on biblical women. Westminster John Knox Press, 1991.</li> <li>Trible, Phyllis, Texts of Terror, Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1984, chapter 1 (Hagar)</li> <li>Amina Wadud, Inside the Gender Jihad, pp. 14-54</li> <li>Asma Barlas</li> </ul>   |
| 11 | 03/29 | Violence towards Religious Minorities  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kiser, John W. Commander of the faithful: the life and times of Emir Abd el-Kader. Monkfish Book Publishing, 2010.</li> <li>Zemmali, Ameer. "Imam Al-Awzai and his humanitarian ideas (707-774)." International Review of the Red Cross (1961-1997) 30.275 (1990): 115-123.</li> <li>Maria Menocal, <i>Ornament of the World</i></li> </ul>  |
| 12 | 04/05 | White Supremacy and Racism             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Cone, <i>Theology's Great Sin: Silence in the Face of White Supremacy</i>, Black Theology, 2:2, 139-152,</li> <li>Miller-Idriss, Cynthia. The extreme gone mainstream: Commercialization and far right youth culture in Germany. Princeton University Press, 2018. (maybe Chapter 4: Dying for a cause, causing death: the Threat of Violence.)</li> <li>Michelle Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</i>, pp. 1-19</li> </ul>   |

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|    | 04/12 | <b>NO CLASS (SEMINARY CLOSED)</b> |   |
| 13 | 04/20 | Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource for Islamophobia teaching: <a href="https://islamophobiaaisracism.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR1eekJS14yYluILQngDEN2PVdkLXLD4g6I7iJooUrOhXBQ8LwyJlbE4b6A">https://islamophobiaaisracism.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR1eekJS14yYluILQngDEN2PVdkLXLD4g6I7iJooUrOhXBQ8LwyJlbE4b6A</a></li> <li>• "Same God" documentary</li> <li>• Emma Polyakov O'Donnell, <i>Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Interreligious Hermeneutics</i></li> <li>• Sophia Rose Arjana, <i>Muslims in the Western Imagination</i></li> <li>• Rebecca Ruth Gould, <i>The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism: Defining Antisemitism by Erasing Palestinians</i></li> <li>• Moustafa Bayoumi, "The Race Is On: Muslims and Arabs in the American Imagination," in <i>This Muslim American Life: Dispatches from the War on Terror</i>, pp. 185-209.</li> </ul> |
| 14 | 04/27 | Wrapping Up                       |   |