HRST2083 Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Theory and Practice  
Fall 2015  Thursdays 12:40-3:30  DSPT #2

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
2301 Vine Street  
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WELCOME  
Course Description

Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Theory and Practice is a seminar course exploring important elements and critical issues of dialogue. The study will include an examination of theories supporting and challenging interreligious dialogue and the history of Christian-Muslim relations. There will be a special focus on the recent development of “A Common Word” initiative begun in 2007 (http://www.acommonword.com). Discussion of comparative theology methodology and interfaith pedagogies will also be explored. Throughout the semester scholars from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith traditions will join us as “dialogue partners” and we will visit their places of worship and gathering.

The course readings, class discussions, and writings assignments aim to fulfill the goals of the course and DSPT institutional goals, which identify significant aspects of theological learning and leadership formation. We will evaluate our progress in achieving these goals throughout the course.

Institutional Goals and Course Goals

**Deep Learning**
Knowledge of facts, details, concepts, and terminology that students will become familiar with in this course

- through
  - Integrative Thinking
  - Intellectual Humility
  - Self-Direction

**Collaborative Leadership**
A collaborative leader inspires within others the desire to realize the common good by articulating to academy or society a coherent vision rooted in the mission of the Church, all the while leading by example.

- acquire general information about Christianity and Islam, i.e., the faith and practice of these traditions
- learn skills that will help communities to understand these faith traditions and engage with local faith communities
- articulate orally and in writing key concepts of theology of religions and various theories of interreligious dialogue
- identify theological and ecclesial challenges to interfaith dialogue
- draw implications for research and ministry from the study of interfaith dialogue
- find resources from various thinkers concerning the way religions can foster common good of societies
- recognize how these insights gained from the study of interfaith dialogue contribute to lifelong learning.
Requirements
Class Participation: 30% of the grade
1. Attendance at all class sessions
2. Preparation of all assigned readings
3. Leading class discussions (September 24, October 1 and 15)

Class Writing Style: Follow Turabian Format. 12pt Times Roman Font. Double spaced. Use footnotes and include bibliography or works cited for each assignment

Writing assignments: 30% of the grade
1. Mid-Term Paper (1000 words): "Posing Questions" (Nov 5)
   a. Looking at the readings thus far, what do you believe are the critical aspects of dialogue?
   b. What might be important competencies for dialogue?
   c. What is the role of theological studies in the development of pedagogies for interfaith learning?

2. Report of Two Site Visits. TWO 700 word essays based on visiting a Muslim/Christian worship/gathering places: Churches/Masjids, school or social-civic education project or institution. Muslims students will visit Christian places/projects and Christian students will visit Muslim places of worship/projects (1st Paper Due October 8 and 2nd Paper Due December 10)


Final Paper on Interfaith Dialogue (2500 words) due Dec 24—this date will be discussed
Preliminary work: Due December 3
1. Created a topic about Interfaith Dialogue based on course work
2. Outline of your paper
3. Proposed bibliography with rationale for your selection of texts

Course Materials: All materials available at Dominican School online bookstore
http://www.dspt.edu/amazon


Additional Readings on Moodle. The materials will be reproduced and electronically distributed pursuant to the “Fair Use” (sec 107) and the Technology, Education, and Copyright Law (U.S. Code, title 17) Articles and Chapters listed is for one time use only in this course.

Video and Internet Resources: These materials are listed below according to themes and topics. All of these materials are in the public domain.

Reference Materials: These texts are available at the GTU library.


Nasr, Seyyed H. *Heart of Islam* Harper-One, 2004


Song, C.S. *Tell Us Our Names, Story Theology from Asian*. New York: Wipf Perspective &Stock, 2005

**Topics and Schedule**

Several sessions will include a dialogue partner who will enter into the class discussions. We have commitments from groups such as: Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Center for Islamic Studies, Islamic Networking Group, Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Jewish Project: Year of Civil Discourse, and Diocese of Oakland

**I. Introduction to Work of Dialogue—September 10 and 17**

*Why learn about other religions? What approaches have our faith communities suggested? What is dialogue? How have we experienced dialogue?*

**September 10**

Introduction Part 1: Personal introductions and the sharing of your interests, program, and experiences of interfaith engagement. We will also review and exchange reflections about the syllabus.

Introduction Part 2: Review of Organizations and Projects that include Dialogue

[http://www.ispu.org](http://www.ispu.org) and [http://www.ing.org](http://www.ing.org) (Islamic Networking Group)
http://www.lutheranworld.org/inf (Lutheran World Federation--Search "Interreligious")
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/ecumenical-interreligious (Episcopal Church)
http://www.pcusa.org/interfaith/ (Presbyterian Church)

(on moodle)
Afsaruddin, Asma, “The Hermeneutics of Interfaith Relations”
Dupuis, Jacques, “Christianity and Other Religions”

Question: How do these two authors make a case for dialogue based on the sacred traditions of Christians and Muslims? (On Moodle)

Cornille, Catherine *The Im-possibility of Interreligious Dialogue*, Introduction
Question: What are some of the obstacles and concerns about dialogue?

**September 17**
(See moodle):

Question: What might we mean by interfaith education or multifaith competency? What are essential elements for creating critical interfaith pedagogies for academic and community based programs to promote understanding among religions?

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**II. Foundations: September 24 and October 1**

Texts, Art, Personal Experiences: Students develop materials
Explorations in Islam and Explorations in Christianity—Working in Dyads outside of class time and then group work for the first hour of class followed by a general presentation.

Questions for Presentation: What is your experience (personal and communal) as a Muslim or as a Christian? What are the basic teachings and practices of your faith? How do the materials provided for class offer a good representation of your faith tradition? If so how? If not, what would you change? What do you believe is your faith’s understanding of engaging in interreligious and/or ecumenical dialogue?
III. Christian and Muslim Theories of Engagement: October 8, 15, 22, and November 5

October 8
Knitter, Paul Introduction, Parts I and II. The Fulfillment and Replacement Models

(See moodle):
Faruqi, Ismail Raji, “Islam and Christianity: Diatribe or Dialogue”


October 15
Knitter, Parts III, IV: The Mutuality and Acceptance Models

(See moodle):
Nyang, Sulayman, “Seeking Religious Roots of Pluralism in the United States of America”

Nasr, Seyyed H., “Islamic-Christian Dialogue: Problems and Obstacles to be Pondered and Overcome” and “Living in Multi-religious World”

Smith, Jane I. “The Pluralist Imperative: Muslim Perspective” in Muslims, Christians and the Challenge of Interfaith Dialogue

October 22:
Cornille: Impossibility of Interreligious Dialogue Challenge of the Models and Approaches Chapters 1 and 2

November 5
Cornille (con’t), Chapters 3-5
View Film: Pray the Devil Back to Hell http://www.praythefilmbaktohell.com

How does this story connect with our understanding of dialogue? What models are at work here in these Christian and Muslim communities?

IV. Comparative Theology and Dialogue: November 12, 19, and Dec 3

November 12
Ayoub, Mahmoud, Part I, Chapters 1-5
Michel, Thomas, Part I, Chapters 1-4

(See moodle)
Clooney, Frank and Fredericks, James: Comparative Theology and Interreligious Friendship
Guest: Artist Salma Aristu http://salmaarastu.com/
November 19
Ayoub Chapters 9 and 14
Michael Chapters 5 and 6

(See moodle)
Ramadan, Tariq.“Interreligious Dialogue”
King, Ursula “Feminism: the Missing Dimension in the Dialogue of Religions”
Kassam, Zayn “Constructive Interreligious Dialogue Concerning Muslim Women”

December 3
Group Readings
Groups #1 Ayoub, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10
Group #2 Ayoub, Chapters 13, 15, 16
Group #3 Michel, Chapters 7, 8, 9, 11
Group #4 Michel, Chapter 13, 14 and 15

IV. Models and Guidelines for Christian-Muslim Dialogue---December 10 and 17

December 10: Inter-Textual Studies: A Common Word: A “network” project?
http://www.acommonword.org and Hagar, Sarah, and their Children Project (Reading on Moodle)

December 17: Guidelines for Dialogue
Review of work: Vatican Commissions, World Council of Churches, World Parliament of Religions, and Regional Statements from various Christian, Muslim and Jewish Traditions (See web address above) and their development of guidelines for dialogue

Interfaith Youth Core: Eboo Patel’s project as a dialogue model: http://www.ifyc.org/