

RELIGION, VIOLENCE AND PEACEBUILDING



DIVI 08001 (Final Draft Outline)

Please note there may be some minor changes to this outline:

Course Manager: Professor Jolyon Mitchell
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Course teachers: Dr Theodora Hawksley (thawksle@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)
Prof. Jolyon Mitchell (Jolyon.Mitchell@ed.ac.uk)
Dr Lesley Orr (Lesley.Orr@ed.ac.uk)
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Contact Hours: Two lectures and one tutorial per week
Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1410-1500 hours
Tutorials: Mondays 1410-1500 or 1510-1600

This outline gives an overview of the course but some details may be subject to revision and change

In this course students investigate the relations between *religion*, *violence* and *building peace*. Through consideration of a range of texts and international case studies participants analyse different kinds of theological reflection and practice, which seeks to engage with the realities of violence and the practicalities of building peace. Case studies include countries such as: Northern Ireland, Rwanda, South Africa and Mozambique

Week 1: Introducing Religion, Violence, and Peacebuilding 15th September:

Jolyon Mitchell and Theodora Hawksley

(a) Course introduction

David Cortright, 'What is Peace?' in *Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, pp.1-21.

Listen to BBC Radio 4's *Ideas that Make Us* on 'Peace'. Available here:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03skzcb/episodes/player>

(b) Key terms: religion, violence, peace

John D. Carlson, 'Religion and Violence: Coming to Terms with Terms' in Andrew R. Murphy, *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2011, also an e-book, pp.7-22.

No Tutorial Text and Tutorial on Monday 15 September – please read both texts.

Week 2: Theorising religion and violence 22nd September:

Theodora Hawksley

(a) William Cavanaugh: Questioning the Link between Religion and Violence.

William T. Cavanaugh, 'The Myth of Religious Violence' in Andrew R. Murphy, *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2011, pp.23-33.

(b) René Girard: Explaining the Link between Religion and Violence.

Kathryn McClymond, 'Sacrifice and Violence' in Andrew R. Murphy, *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2011, pp.320-330.

(c) Tutorial

Rene Girard, 'Sacrifice' from *Violence and the Sacred*, (*La violence et le sacré*) also in Bruce B. Lawrence and Aisha Karim, editors, *On Violence: A Reader*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2007, pp.334-350.

Week 3: The Ambivalence of the Sacred 29th September:

Jolyon Mitchell

(a) Inciting Violence: the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

Jolyon Mitchell, *Promoting Peace, Inciting Violence: The Role of Religion and Media*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012, especially Chapter 3 & 4 on Rwanda.

(b) Thursday 2nd October no lecture, please sign up for at least one of the Miroslav Volf lectures on 20/21 and/or 22 October.

See also: Scott Appleby lecture at Vanderbilt University, 'The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion as a Source of Violent and Non-Violent Militance'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIPOLq7eedU>

(c) Tutorial text: How far is it helpful to distinguish between religious and political violence and extremism?

Scott Appleby, 'Violence as a Sacred Duty' in *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000, pp. 81-120.

[There are currently only two copies in the library but this part of the text will provide further helpful material: Scott Appleby, *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000, intro. & ch. 1.]

Week 4: Liberal and Strategic Peacebuilding

6th October:

Theo Hawksley

(a) Liberal Peacebuilding: Conventional Approaches

Immanuel Kant, 'Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch' (1795). See online: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm>

(b) Strategic Peacebuilding: Contemporary Approaches

John Paul Lederach and R. Scott Appleby, 'Strategic Peacebuilding: An Overview' in Gerard F. Powers and Daniel Philpott (eds.) *Strategies of Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

(c) Tutorial Text:

John Paul Lederach and Angela Jill Lederach. *When Blood and Bones Cry Out: Journeys Through the Soundscape of Healing and Reconciliation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. (e-book). Chapter 5 'Shifting Metaphors' pp.41-72, and Chapter 7 'The Tibetan Singing Bowl' pp.89-110.

Week 5: The Art of Peacebuilding:

13th October:

Jolyon Mitchell

i. Peacebuilding and the Arts

Jolyon Mitchell, *Promoting Peace, Inciting Violence: The Role of Religion and Media*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012, especially the Introduction and Conclusion.

ii. Remembering Violence and Peace

Jolyon Mitchell, *Promoting Peace, Inciting Violence: The Role of Religion and Media*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012, chapter 1. (Case Study: First World War)

iii. Tutorial Text: Q. How might the arts shape the practice of peacebuilding?

John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (Also ebook) Chapter 13 'On Pied Pipers: Imagination and Creativity' and Chapter 14 'On Vocation: The Mystery of Risk', pp.151-169.

Week 6: Imagining Violence and Peace

20th October:
Jolyon Mitchell

Cunningham lectures with Professor Miroslav Volf (Yale)

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cunningham-lectures-tickets-12775843893>

i. Imagining Martyrdom:

Case Study: *The Iran-Iraq War and Martyrdom*.

Jolyon Mitchell, *Promoting Peace, Inciting Violence: The Role of Religion and Media*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012, especially Chapter 2 on Iran and Martyrdom

ii. Representing Reconciliation:

Case Study: The TRC commission in South African Film.

Jolyon Mitchell, *Promoting Peace, Inciting Violence: The Role of Religion and Media*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012, especially Chapter 5 on South Africa

iii Tutorial Text: Q: *How does belief shape practice or vice versa?* Miroslav Volf, "Theology for a Way of Life," in Miroslav Volf and Dorothy C Bass eds. *Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life* (Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 2002), pp 245-262. **BV3 Pra**

Week 7: South Africa – Apartheid and Beyond

27th October:
Jenny Wright

i. Apartheid: A Community Divided

Douglas Johnston, 'Apartheid and the Churches in South Africa,' in Douglas Johnston and Cynthia Sampson eds. *Religion the Missing Dimension of Statecraft*. New York. OUP. 1994. pp177-207 **BR115.I7 Rel** and John De Gruchy, 'Political landmarks and the response of churches in South Africa, 1936-1994,' *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, no 118. Mar 2004, p 3-26.

ii. Case Study: South Africa

Megan Shore, *Religion and Conflict Resolution: Christianity and South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Process*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2009 Ch. 4 pp60-74 **BL476.5 Sho**

iii. Tutorial Text: Q: *With reference to the Belhar confession consider ways in which religion might or might not provide resources for building peace?*

Dutch Reformed Church, *Belhar Confession* 1986 available at

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession/> and Nico Koopman, 'On violence, the Belhar Confession and human dignity.' http://belydenisvanbelhar.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ngtt_v49_n3_4_a14.pdf

[See also: Dirk Smit, 'Reformed Faith, Justice and the Struggle against apartheid' in *Essays in Public Theology, Collected Essays 1*, Stellenbosch: Sunpress, 2007. Chapter Two, pp 26-38. **BV625 Smi**]

Week 8: South Africa – Apartheid and Beyond

3rd November:

Jenny Wright

i. Ubuntu in Practice – Human Dignity and Restorative Justice

M. Battle, *Reconciliation: the Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 1997. Chapter Three pp35-53 **BX 5700.6.Z8 Bat**

See also: Desmond Tutu's lecture *The Struggle for Social Justice in Post Apartheid South Africa* hosted by the Kroc Institute. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOBoILLKXe0> (ideally the whole lecture but especially 14:00 – 37:34)

ii. Peacebuilding in the Aftermath – Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Hope

Desmond Tutu, *No Future Without Forgiveness*, New York: Image, Doubleday, 1999, pp206-235 **BR1450 Tut** . See also online course readings.

iii. Tutorial text Q: How far is 'Cheap Reconciliation a threat to peacebuilding?

The Kairos Theologians, *The Kairos Document: Challenge to the Church: a Theological Comment on the Political Crisis in South Africa* (2nd ed.). Johannesburg: Skotaville. 1986 (1985), **pMZ 51.4 KAI** or

<http://www.sahistory.org.za/archive/challenge-church-theological-comment-political-crisis-south-africa-kairos-document-1985> and

Steve de Gruchy, *On not abandoning church theology. Dirk Smit on Church and Politics*. http://belydenisvanbelhar.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ngtt_v48_n1_a31.pdf

Week 9: Religion and Gender Based Violence

10th November:

Lesley Orr

i. A Sacred War Against Women?: Religion as a conducive context for gender based violence

Shaina Greiff, 'No Justice in Justifications: Violence against Women in the Name of Culture, Religion, and Tradition (2010). Available at

http://www.wluml.org/sites/wluml.org/files/SKSW%20Policy%20Briefing%20Series%2001_No%20Justice%20in%20Justifications_Greiff.pdf

Mary Condren, 'Constructing the Patriarchal Sacred', *Feminist Theology* 17:3 (May 2009) pp356-391

ii. Resources and struggles to overcome Violence Against Women

Aruna Gnanadason "'We Have Spoken So Long O God: When Will We Be Heard?" Theological Reflections on Overcoming Violence against Women' *Theology and Sexuality* 13:1 (2006) pp 9-22

iii. Tutorial text: Q: To what extent are religious texts, traditions and institutions causes or solutions for gender based violence? Case study: The Church of Scotland report

(2014) 'Living a theology that counters violence against women',

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/20096/Living-a-theology.pdf

Week 10: Gendering Violence, Resistance and Peacebuilding **17th November:**
Lesley Orr

i. Case Study 1: Northern Ireland

Melanie Hoewer, 'UN Resolution 1325 in Ireland: Limitations and Opportunities of the International Framework on Women, Peace and Security', *Irish Political Studies*, 28:3 (2013), 450-468; Cathy Higgins, 'No F Theology without F Action: Resistance and Praxis in the Northern Ireland Context', *Feminist Theology* 21:26 (2012) pp26 - 40

ii. Case Study 2: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Watch 'Abandon the Knife' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WONb6b6Yf08>
(32 minutes)

iii. Tutorial text: Q: In what ways are violence, war and peacebuilding gendered?

Janet R. Jakobsen, 'Gender in the Production of Religious and Secular Violence' in Andrew R. Murphy, *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Violence*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2011 (e-book)

Week 11: Revision Week **24th November:**

i. Revision on weeks 1-5

ii. Revision on weeks 6-10

iii. Tutorial: revision over set texts.

Intended Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, a student will:

- 1) be able to demonstrate understanding of the complex relations between religion, violence and peacebuilding.
- 2) be able to describe, analyse, and critically evaluate selected theological approaches to religion, violence and peacebuilding.
- 3) have engaged critically with selected primary sources relating to religious violence, peacebuilding, conflict transformation, reconciliation and practical theology.
- 4) be able to demonstrate the ability to participate in constructive discussion and debate with other seminar members in a respectful manner.

Details of Assessment

20% on tutorial participation and written reflection on tutorial text (400 words)

30% a 2,500 word essay

50% examination

Assessment Criteria

Essays:

- Evidence of engagement with the question;
- Depth of reading and knowledge about the subject;
- Evidence of some critical thinking;
- Coherence and structure of the essay;
- Clear writing style, good grammar and attention to presentation;
- Accurate referencing.

See *online recommended essay questions*.

Exams:

- Evidence that the questions answered have been understood and addressed;
- Ability to utilise relevant texts from appropriate reading;
- Ability to critically engage with the sources;
- Ability to structure a clear answer and develop a coherent argument;

See *Exam Papers Online...*

<https://exampapers.ed.ac.uk/search/religion,%20violence%20and%20peacebuilding>

Tutorial Sheets

- Ability to address the topic or question set;
- Ability to describe accurately and critique the author's views;
- Ability to be reflective.

Tutorial Participation

- Willingness to engage in discussion;
- Ability to engage respectfully with other members;
- Capacity to take and defend a view about the reading/topic of the week.

Indicative Bibliography

Abu-Nimer, Mohammed, ed. *Reconciliation, Justice and Co-existence*. Lanham, Maryland. Lexington Books. 2001

Appleby, Scott *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence, and Reconciliation*, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000.

Banks, M. H. and Christopher Mitchell. *Handbook of Conflict resolution: The Analytical Problem-Solving Approach*. London: Pinter, 1996.

Battle, Michael. *Reconciliation: the Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 1997.

Baum, Gregory and Harold Wells, eds., *The Reconciliation of Peoples: Challenge to the Churches*. New York. Maryknoll. Orbis Books. 1997

Biggar, Nigel. 'Forgiving Enemies in Ireland,' *Journal of Religious Ethics* 36.4.Dec 2008: pp559-579 and two responses to 'Forgiving Enemies in Ireland,' *Journal of Religious Ethics* 36.4 (Dec 2008) pp581-593

Biggar, Nigel. *Burying the Past: Making Peace and Doing Justice After Civil Conflict*. 2nd Edn. Washington: Georgetown University Press. 2003.

Browning, Robert L. and Roy A. Reed, *Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Moral Courage: Motives and Designs for Ministry in a Troubled World*. Grand Rapids. W. B. Eerdmans. 2004

Boesak, Allan Aubrey. *Dare we Speak of Hope? Searching for a Language of Life in Faith and Politics*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdman's Publishing Company, 2014.

Brudholm, Thomas, *Resentment's Journey: Jean Améry and the Refusal to Forgive*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008.

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*. New York. OUP. 2009.

Cejka, Mary Ann, Thomas Bamat. Eds. *Artisans of Peace: Grassroots Peacemaking Among Christian Communities*. New York: Orbis Books, 2003.

Clark N. and W. Worger, *South Africa: the Rise and Fall of Apartheid*, Harlow, UK: Pearson, 2004.

Cortright, David. *Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008

Curle, Adam. *Tools for Transformation*. London: Hawthorn Press, 1990.

Danaher, W.J., 'Music that will bring back the dead? Resurrection, reconciliation, and restorative justice in post-Apartheid South Africa,' *Journal of Religious Ethics*. January 2010. vol. 38. no. 1: pp. 115-41.

de Gruchy, John W. *Reconciliation: Restoring Justice*. Canterbury. SCM Press. 2002.

de Gruchy, John W. *Christianity, Art, and Transformation: Theological Aesthetics in the Struggle for Justice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Edgell Becker, Penny *Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Enright, Robert D. *Forgiveness is a Choice: A Step-by-Step Process for Resolving Anger and Restoring Hope*. Washington. American Psychological Association. 2001

Fisher, Ronald J., *Interactive Conflict Resolution*. New York: Syracuse University Press 1997.

Gunton, Colin. *The Theology of Reconciliation*. Edinburgh. T&T Clark. 2003

Hurley, Michael, ed. *Reconciliation in Religion and Society*. Belfast. Institute of Irish Studies. 1994.

John Paul II, ‘Post-Synodal Exhortation: Reconciliation and Penance’, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_02121984_reconciliatio-et-paenitentia_en.html

Johnston, Douglas and Cynthia Sampson eds. *Religion the Missing Dimension of Statecraft*. New York. OUP. 1994.

Kairos Theologians, *The Kairos Document: Challenge to the Church: a Theological Comment on the Political Crisis in South Africa* (2nd ed.). Johannesburg: Skotaville. 1986 (1985).

Lawrence, Bruce B. and Aisha Karim, editors, *On Violence: A Reader*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2007.

Lederach, John Paul. *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997.

Lederach, John Paul. *Little Book of Conflict Transformation*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2003.

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Liechty, Joseph and Cecelia Clegg, *Moving Beyond Sectarianism: Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*. Dublin. Columba Press. 2001. **BR797.N67 Lie**

Liechty, Joseph. “Putting Forgiveness in its Place: The Dynamics of Reconciliation,” in David Tombs and Joseph Liechty, eds., *Explorations in Reconciliation: New Directions in Theology*, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2006.

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Naude, Piet J. *Niether Calendar nor Clock. Perspectives on the Belhar Confession*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010.

Philpott, Daniel and Gerard Powers, *Strategies of Peace*. New York: OUP. 2010.

Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (London: Burns & Oates, 2012)

Powers, Gerard F. and Daniel Philpott (eds.) *Strategies of Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Ramsbotham, Oliver, Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall. *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*. 3rd Edn. London. Polity Press. 2011

Redekop, Vern Neufeld. *From Violence to Blessing: How an understanding of deep-rooted conflict can open paths to reconciliation*. Ottawa. Editions Novalis. 2002.

Reychler, Luc, Thania Paffenholz. Eds. *Peacebuilding: A Field Guide*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002.

Rosenberg, Marshall. *Non Violent Communication: A Language of Life: Create Your Life, Your Relationships and Your World in Harmony with Your Values*. Independent Publishers Group. Sep 2003.

Schimmel, Solomon. *Wounds not Healed by Time: The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness*. Oxford. OUP. 2002.

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Shore, Megan. *Religion and Conflict Resolution: Christianity and South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Process*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2009.

Shriver, Donald. *An Ethic for Enemies: Forgiveness in Politics*. New York: Oxford Uni. Press, 1995.

The York Mystery Plays, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999 (1984).

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