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)
    Dr Jenny Wright (jwright7@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)

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  

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  

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.  

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

(c) Tutorial  

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

(a) Inciting Violence: the 1994 Rwanda genocide.  

(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?

[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: Rowan 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

(c) Tutorial Text:

Week 5: The Art of Peacebuilding: 13th October: Jolyon Mitchell

i. Peacebuilding and the Arts

ii. Remembering Violence and Peace

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

**ii. Representing Reconciliation:**
Case Study: The TRC commission in South African Film.


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**Week 7: South Africa – Apartheid and Beyond**

**27th October:**

Jenny Wright

**i. Apartheid: A Community Divided**

**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


Week 8: South Africa – Apartheid and Beyond  
3rd November:  
Jenny Wright

i. Ubuntu in Practice – Human Dignity and Restorative Justice  
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  

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


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  

ii. Resources and struggles to overcome Violence Against Women  

iii. Tutorial text  
Q: To what extent are religious texts, traditions and institutions causes or solutions for gender based violence?  
**Week 10: Gendering Violence, Resistance and Peacebuilding** 17th November:

*Lesley Orr*

**i. Case Study 1: Northern Ireland**


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

Watch ‘Abandon the Knife’ [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WONb6b6Yf08](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WONb6b6Yf08) (32 minutes)

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


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**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


Tombs, David, and Joseph Leichty, Explorations in Reconciliation: New Directions in Theology. Aldershot, UK. Ashgate. 2006


