WOMEN, WAR AND RELIGION – OJZ235 – SPRING 2014

SYLLABUS

**Michele M. Hovey**

Office Hours: Online, scheduled by appointment

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

As the human community we do not know how to create peace in chronic conflict areas in the world. Religion is often in the mix and “sacred violence” is seemingly on the rise. Women are essential activists at every level of conflict’s brutal reality, but their vital contributions are often unrecognized in formal peace processes.

In this course we examine the contributions of women in brokering peace in the world and the cost of negating the impact of women in violent conflict situations. Students will learn about international post-conflict reconstruction processes, get an introduction to the formal and informal aspects of peacebuilding and learn to recognize the issues surrounding and frequently preventing women’s full participation.

We will focus on specific examples of modern conflict as the lens through which we examine the contribution of women in:

* Preventing and resolving armed conflict
* Creating security and providing protection for vulnerable populations
* Stabilizing communities and rebuilding nations
* Justice and governance
* The role of religion

We will examine conflicts in:

* Afghanistan
* Ireland
* Liberia (Africa)
* Former Yugoslavia/Bosnia

If you want to use another national or regional case study, I am open to permitting that. Please discuss with me.

As students of religion, we will end the course “thinking out of the box” by exploring ideas and roles that religion, religious leaders, and ordinary citizens could perform to help bring about the inclusion of women, and all stakeholders in international peace processes, to help reform the violent impulse in (our) religion, and to help end armed conflict in our world.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

* Complete all reading each week
* View (at least) 3 of the 5 PBS documentaries from the Women, War and Peace series

They are available online on the PBS website.

* Reading and Viewing Responses

Possible “starter” questions will be posted.

I am looking for “real conversation”. Please engage. I will not grade on how often or the length of your posts. I am looking for substance and involvement. You are welcome to take off in a direction that interests you. I will join the conversation.

- Post, video or audio record your reading and viewing responses by Tuesdays at 12:00 midnight of each week

- Read and comment (move the conversation forward) on 2 other student’s responses by Fridays at 12:00 midnight.

*-*Students are also required to respond to class presentations, about 1 paragraph response to each presentation.

* One-per-group draft proposal – due in Week #4
* Class group presentation on specific conflict area – due in Week #6
* Research paper – expanded from group presentation (8 to 15 pages) – due in Week #9
* Final class – 10 ideas and brief class learning summary

**GRADING: DISTRIBUTION OF POINTS**

Participation 15 points

Reading and viewing responses 15 points

Peer responses 10 points

Group proposal, research project and class presentation 25 points

Research paper – expanded from group presentation 25 points

Final class – 10 ideas and class learning summary 10 points

100 total points

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

**REQUIRED READING**

* *Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why it Matters*, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini
* *To Make The Earth Whole,* Marc Gopin
* *When Religion Becomes Evil,* Charles Kimball
* *Terror in the Mind of God; The Global Rise of Religious Violence,* Mark Jurgensmeyer

(selected chapters)

* Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action

(Available for download on [www.huntalternatives.org](http://www.huntalternatives.org) under “research and publications”)

* Articles, information and videos from online links will be assigned weekly as part of “in-class” work.

**REQUIRED VIEWING**

* 3 out of 5 segments from the PBS Series, *Women, War and Peace;*

*War Redefined, The War We Are Living, Peace Unveiled, Pray the Devil Back to Hell, I Came to Testify*

* Class videos

I am going to be using somePowerPoints, lecture material, and videos from a resource called *The Curriculum* published by the Institute for Inclusive Security.

**RECOMMENDED READING** (On Reserve in Taylor Library)

* *Worlds Apart: Bosnian Lessons for Global Security*, Swanee Hunt
* *Religion, The Missing Dimension of Statecraft*, ed. Douglas Johnston and Cynthia Sampson
* *Half The Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, N.D. Kristof and S.WuDunn
* *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*, Jean Paul Lederach
* *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation At War*, Leymah Gbowee with Carol Mithers

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Will be disciplined in accordance with official policy of Iliff School of Theology and University of Denver

**WITHDRAWALS AND INCOMPLETES:**

Will be handled in accordance with official policy of Iliff School of Theology and University of Denver

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:**

Will be handled in accordance with official policy of Iliff School of Theology and University of Denver

**CHANGES:**

Please note that I reserve the right to add to or change any course material contained in this syllabus.