

BTS 4895/5700 TOPICS FAITH AND TOLERATION
CROSS LISTED WITH PCD
 FALL SEMESTER 2018-2019
 CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

Professor: Karl Koop, Ph.D., University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto
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 Course Schedule and Location: Monday 8:30 to 11:15; Location: TBD

Course Description

This course explores the dynamics of faith and toleration, and religion and conflict in historical and contemporary perspective, taking into account the Christian tradition, but also addressing issues in Judaism and Islam. Among other things, the course will examine the various conflicts within and between the various religious traditions, and it will interrogate the origins and nature of specific conflicts that intersect with various faith communities. Topics to be addressed will include: sexuality and gender, settler and indigenous relations, race and ethnicity, religion and modernity. Above all, the course will seek to develop resources that support the work of reconciliation and peace.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation	20%
Class Presentations	20%
Essay	50%
Essay presentation	10%

GRADING SCALE: A+ 95-100; A 88-94; B+ 81-87; B 74-80; C+ 67-73; C 60-66; D 50-59; F < 50

TEXT: The primary text will be Miroslav Volf's *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation* (Nashville, KY: Abingdon Press, 1996). Additional readings from journals will be assigned for each week.

MORE ON THE SHAPE OF THE COURSE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Course Format: Class sessions will include brief introductory lectures, student presentations and discussion. Typically the first half of each class will attend to the text by Volf; the second half of the class will focus on the journal articles and student presentations. The success of the class will depend significantly on student preparation and participation.

Attendance and Class Participation: It is expected that students, including those who are auditing the class, will have studied all the required readings for each class, and have some form of access to the readings during class time. Students will be asked to raise points of analysis, offer critical interpretations of the readings, and raise appropriate questions for discussion. Dialogue in the classroom should be collegial and respectful. Students taking the course for credit will be graded on the basis of their attendance and ability to engage with the readings and class discussions.

Reading Responses: At some point in the semester (to be determined at the first class) students will be responsible for presenting reading reflections which will be made available to the rest of the class. The first half of the reflection should summarize the contents of the reading, highlighting in particular its main argument and how it is developed. The second half of the presentation should give attention to questions, further issues, problems, or

insights that emerge from the readings. It may be valuable to compare the reading with the other readings of the same day or of previous days. The reflection should be about 1,000 words in length and submitted as an attached Word Document. Note the formatting: maximum two pages; no title page but appropriate heading on the first page; single-spaced; double-spaced between paragraphs; one-inch margins; 10-12 point font as appropriate; contents should be thoroughly referenced using parenthesis. The presentation must be submitted on Friday by noon time via email prior to Monday's class.

Term Essay: Students will write an essay that will give attention to a particular author, theme or issue related to the course. It is strongly recommended that students consult with the professor prior to the mid-term break before embarking on their research and writing. The essay must have a purpose or thesis statement. The essay will be evaluated on the basis of form and content. It is expected that the essay will provide documentation according to the University of Chicago style with the use of footnotes (not parenthetical referencing--MLA or APA style etc.). The undergraduate student essay should be about 3500-4500 words in length; the graduate student essay should be about 4500-6000 words in length (word-count includes footnotes)

Presentation and Abstract: On the final day of class, students will present a one-page 400-word abstract or precis (single-spaced) that summarizes the purpose or thesis of their work, a brief outline indicating how the essay is developed, and a summary of key insights that have been gathered. The abstract will also include the bibliography of the essay. The assignment will be emailed on Friday in advance of the class through a Word document and will cover no more than two sides of one page.

Policy for Late Submissions: Late submissions may only receive minimal or no feedback. The professor reserves the right to reduce the grades of any assignments that are handed in late.

Course Outline

- 1) J07 Introduction to the course
-syllabus, student introductions, issues, questions, "toleration" as a concept.
- 2) J14 The Cross, the Self, and the Other
-Volf, 9-31; Snyder, Faith and Toleration: A Reformation Debate Revisited," Introduction and Chapter 1 (Winnipeg: CMU Press, 2018)
-Jae-Eun Park, "Lacking love or conveying Love?: the fundamental roots of the Donatists and Augustine's treatment of them," *The Reformed Theological Review* 72, no. 2 (August 2013): 103-121 (ATLA).
-Gregory, "The Willingness to Kill," in *Salvation at Stake*, 74-96
- 3) J21 Distance and Belonging
-Volf, 35-55
-Tink Tinker, "Toward an American Indian Indigenous Theology," *The Ecumenical Review* 62, no. 4 (December 2010): 340-351. (ATLA)
-Jane Samson, "The Problem of Colonization in the Western Historiography of Christian Missions," *Religious Studies and Theology* 23, no. 2 (2004): 3-25 (ATLA).
-Ronilso Pacheco, "Black Theology in Brazil: Decolonial and Marginal," *Cross Currents* 67, no. 1 (March 2017): 55-64. (ATLA)
- 4) J28 Exclusion
-Volf, 57-71
-Alan T. Davies, "The Aryan Christ: A Motif in Christian Anti-Semitism," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 12, no. 4 (Fall 1975): 569-579 (ATLA)

- Benjamin W. Goossen, "Measuring Mennonitism: Racial Categorization in Nazi Germany and Beyond," *Journal of Mennonite Studies* 34 (2016): 225-246 (ATLA)
 - Karl Koop, "On Judging the Past," *Mennonite Historian* 42, no. 3 (September 2016): 2, 4, 5, 10.
- 5) F04 Exclusion
- Volf, 72-98
 - Locke, "A Letter about Toleration" 1-27 (Internet)
 - William T. Cavanaugh, "Religious Violence as Modern Myth," *Political Theology* 15, no. 6 (November 2014): 486-502 (ATLA)
 - Zygmunt Bauman, "Sociology after the Holocaust," *The British Journal of Sociology* (Dec. 1988): 469-497 (JSTOR)
- 6) F11 Embrace
- Volf, 99-165
 - Rachel Waltner Goossen, "Defanging the Beast: Mennonite Responses to John Howard Yoder's Sexual Abuse," *The Mennonite Quarterly Review* 89, no. 1 (January 2015): 7-80. (ATLA)
 - Rachel Waltner Goossen, "Mennonite Bodies, Sexual Ethics: Women Challenge John Howard Yoder," *Journal of Mennonite Studies* 34 (2016): 247-259. (ATLA)
 - Kimberly L. Penner, "Mennonite Peace Theology and Violence against Women," *Conrad Grebel Review* 35, no. 3 (Fall 2017): 280-293.
 - Carol Penner, "Violence against Women in the Mennonite Brethren Church: Abuse Policies are Not Enough," *Direction: A Mennonite Brethren Forum*, 45, no. 2 (Fall 2016): 192-208. (ATLA)
- F18 Reading Day
- 7) F25 Gender Identity
- Volf, 167-190
 - Gerald W. Schlabach, "The fierce grace of stability: A story of discernment through hard times," *Vision* 17, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 19-26. (ATLA)
 - Marion Carson, "The Bible, Character Ethics, and Same-Sex Relationships," *Baptistic Theologies* 9, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 78-91. (ATLA)
- 8) M04 Oppression and Justice
- Volf, 193-231
 - Martha Frederiks, "Hermeneutics from an inter-religious perspective?" *Exchange* 34, no. 2 (2005): 102-110. (ATLA)
 - Charles Hefling, "How wide is God's mercy?: The Holy Spirit and other religions," *The Christian Century* 132, no. 23 (Nov. 11, 2015): 22-27 (ATLA)
- 9) M11 Deception and Truth
- Volf, 233-273
 - Jan van Wiele, "The Universality and Particularity of Christianity in Edward Schillibeeckx's Theology of Religions," *Studies in Interreligious Dialogues* 22 (2012): 5-16 (ATLA)
 - Harry Huebner, "Mennonite-Shi'a Engagement: Proclamation, Friendship, Peacebuilding," *Direction* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 47-59 (ATLA)
 - Fernando Enns, "The Peace Church: Identity and Tolerance in Pluralistic Societies," *Conrad Grebel Review* 23, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 19-31 (ATLA)

10) M18 Violence and Peace

-Volf, 275-306

-Fernando Enns, "Saint?—Ecumenist!—Pacifist? Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer," *Creed and Conscience: Essays in Honour of A. James Reimer*, eds. Jeremy M. Bergen, Paul Doerksen, Karl Koop (Kitchener, ON: Pandora Press, 2007), 167-180.

-Paul Doerksen, "The Politics of Moral Patience," *Political Theology*, 15, no. 5 (September 2014): 454-467. (ATLA)

11) Either March 25 or April 01 Presentation of Essays