

**CS525 NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT:
RELIGION AND VIOLENCE
SPRING 2007**

Monday/Wednesday 9:30-11:18

Professor Erzen

433 Hagerty Hall

Email: erzen.2@osu.edu

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00

Course Description:

Why are religious movements so often a force for violence as well as peace? How are gender and racial relations implicated in religious violence? How have people advocated for and participated in religious violence? How have they resisted such violence? This course will examine several global religious movements in order to address these and other questions. We first analyze different ways of defining and classifying religious violence. Then, we turn to case studies on conservative Christianity, foreign policy, and war; genocide in Rwanda and Darfur; the Taliban; the Promise Keepers; women in Iran; Buddhist violence, and Hindu nationalism. The course concludes with examples of responses to religious violence. Throughout the quarter, we will explore key issues within the study of religion such as fundamentalism, millenarianism, conversion, religious warfare, colonialism, and post-colonialism.

Readings:

Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*

Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*

Available at SBX Book Store 1806 North High St., Phone: (614) 291-9528

The packet of articles is available for purchase from Zip Copy at SBX bookstore.

Assignments:

The assignments for this course include: five media analyses, a group presentation, one take-home midterm, and your choice of a final exam or paper project on an issue of religious violence.

Five Media Analyses:

A portion of the course will consist of media analyses and reports of contemporary religious movements and the issue of violence. The purpose of this assignment is to encourage students to read a variety of news sources on religion, to help students learn to analyze the media, and to enable students to connect the course material to the world outside the classroom.

You will present one of your media analyses to the class during the quarter. For each analysis, you should turn in:

1. a hard copy of a current article about some issue related to religious violence
2. a hard copy of an analytical paper that you have written about the article

The articles you select must be current although they may reflect issues of religious violence either past or present. Articles may be culled from newspapers, magazines, or other online sources as long as they are dated and represent current material. You will turn in these articles and analytical papers at the end of the class meeting.

You must choose at least **4** different sources for your articles.

Only **two** of your articles can be arts or entertainment related.

One of your articles may be a political cartoon, comic, or otherwise.

Each analytical paper should be between 450-500 words- absolutely no longer or shorter.

Include a word count at the end of your paper.

In writing the analytical papers, do not summarize the article. The paper should analyze the article, commenting on it in a way that goes beyond the article, and relates it to issues we have discussed in class. Discuss what the article is doing and how it pertains to the debates in class. Things to consider: who is the intended audience of this article? What is their agenda in writing it? What kind of intervention (political, social, cultural) does the article make?

Group Presentation: You will choose either Chapter 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 from the Juergensmeyer book. In collaboration with your group, you will present the material from that chapter to the rest of the class. You should work together and be as creative as possible. These presentations will take place Wed. April 3rd and Monday April 9th.

Take-home Midterm: I will distribute the midterm questions one week prior to the midterm due date of **April 25th**.

Final Exam: The final exam will be a take-home written exam. Students also have the option of writing a final 8-10-page paper that reflects the theme of religious movements and violence. You may use your media analyses as a basis for the paper.

Attendance and Participation:

We are fortunate to have several speakers on campus this quarter who will address issues related to the course. You will receive a credit for a class missed or extra credit for your final grade if you attend either event. You will also make Prof. Erzen very happy.

I expect students to be active participants in their educations. This means that each student should come to class having carefully read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them. Because knowing how to articulate your ideas is a crucial part of the learning process, I expect you, as a member of the class, to contribute your own unique perspective to our discussions.

The real action of our seminar takes place in the classroom. Therefore, it is important and expected that you will be at every class session. Inevitably, an occasion may arise when you are unable to attend. Out of fairness to your classmates who do attend every class, chronic lateness and/or more than one unexcused absence will detract from your participation grade. To make up for a missed class, you may attend one of the speaker

events. Finally, if you have any special needs or concerns with this course, please feel free to talk with me in person.

Grading:

Attentive presence and participation in discussion: 20%

Group Presentation: 15%

Five Media Analyses: 25%

Take-home Mid-term Exam: 20%

Final Paper (8-10 pages) and Final Paper Presentation: 20%

My computer crashed, and my grandma ate my media analysis...

All written work should be in 12-point, double-spaced type, with standard margins, and pages numbered and stapled. I will not accept a paper that is not stapled. *All written work should be thoroughly proofread.* There are no extensions, and all assignments are marked down one-third of a letter grade for every late day. **After 3 days, if you have not turned in your paper, you will automatically receive a “0” for that paper. No exceptions.**

Student Conferences and E-mail Communication: Please stop by office hours or schedule an appointment if necessary. You are also welcome to email me with questions related to the course. However, do not send any information or requests in an email that you would not discuss with me in person. I will not answer any email I deem inappropriate.

Student Rights and Conduct

Any student with a documented disability who may require special accommodations should identify him or herself to the instructor as early in the quarter as possible to receive effective and timely accommodations. You may also wish to contact the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307). Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct, particularly the rules regarding plagiarism, as stated in the University's Code of Student Conduct. Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of plagiarism will be treated very seriously according to the University's guidelines.

***Readings in Packet**

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Monday March 26: Introduction to the course

SECTION I: Understanding Religion and Violence

Wednesday March 28: Who Gets to be Human on the Evening News?

*Janet Jakobsen, “Is Secularism Less Violent than Religion?”

*Sally Bachner, “The Wrong Victims: Terrorism, Trauma, and Symbolic Violence”

*Alisa Solomon, “Who Gets to be Human on the Evening News?”

Monday April 2

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, pp. 1-15, 121-189

Film: *Paradise Now*

Wednesday April 4

Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*, pp.190-249

GROUP 1,2,3 PRESENTATIONS

SECTION II: Religion, Violence and Apocalypticism

Monday April 9: Prophecy and Foreign Policy

*Paul Boyer, "When U.S. Foreign Policy Meets Biblical Prophecy"

*Melani McAllister "Making Israel Matter: Hal Lindsey and the Politics of Prophecy Talk"

GROUP 4, 5, 6 PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday April 11: Just War Theory and Christian Perspectives on the Iraq War

CLASS DEBATE: *Readings on Carmen*

ANALYTIC PAPER 1 DUE

SECTION III: Religion, Genocide, and Ethnic Violence

Monday April 16: Defining Genocide

*Samantha Powers, "The Crime without a Name", "The Crime with a Name"

*Philip Gourevitch, "After the Genocide"

*Graham Bowley, "U.N. Court Issues Ruling on Bosnia Genocide," New York Times, Feb. 26, 2007

Tuesday, April 17, 4:00pm George Wells Knight House, 104 E. 15th Avenue.

Donald Miller, Professor of Religion and Director of the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at University of Southern California

"Global Pentecostalism and New Forms of Social Engagement in Rwanda."

Wednesday April 18: Religion and Genocide in Rwanda

*Tim Longman, "Christian Churches and Genocide in Rwanda"

*Charles de Lespinay, "The Churches and the Genocide in the East African Great Lakes Region"

Film: *Hotel Rwanda*

ANALYTIC PAPER 2 DUE

*****MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED*****

Monday April 23: Reparations and Justice

*Philip Gourevitch, "The Return"

*Samantha Powers, "Rwanda: The Two Faces of Justice"

Film: Finish *Hotel Rwanda*

Wednesday April 25: Current Responses to Genocide: Darfur

*Samantha Powers, "Dying in Darfur"

*Samantha Powers, "It's Not Enough to Call it Genocide"

Read the history section at www.savedarfur.org

CLASS DEBATE ON DARFUR

*****MIDTERM DUE*****

SECTION IV: Religious Fundamentalisms and Globalization

Monday April 30: Defining Fundamentalism

*John S. Hawley, "Introduction" *Gender and Fundamentalism*

*Ghazala Anwar, "Reclaiming the Religious Center from a Muslim Perspective: Theological Alternatives to Religious Fundamentalism"

Wednesday May 2: Case Study: The Taliban

Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*
PART 1

Chip Brown, "The Freshman," *New York Times*, Feb. 26, 2006 (*on Carmen*)

ANALYTIC PAPER 3 DUE

Monday May 7: Case Study: The Taliban continued

Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban*: PART 2

Peter Bergen, "The Taliban: Regrouped and Rearmed," *The Washington Post*, September 10, 2006 (*on Carmen*)

*Sima Wali, "Afghanistan: Truth and Mythology" in *Women for Afghan Women: Shattering Myths and Claiming the Future*

Wednesday May 9: Case Study: Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda

Readings on Carmen:

Raffi Khatchadourian, "Azzam the American: The Making of an Al Qaeda Homegrown," *The New Yorker*, January 2007

Benjamin Barber, "Jihad v. McWorld," from *Jihad Versus McWorld*

Osama Bin-Laden, "Crusader Wars," "Nineteen Students," "To the People of Afghanistan," and "To the Americans" from *Messages to the World* ed. Bruce Lawrence

ANALYTIC PAPER 4 DUE

Wednesday, May 9, 4:30 p.m. Room 090 Science & Engineering Library
Bruce Lawrence, Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Duke
Islamic Studies Center at Duke University
“OSAMA BIN LADEN: Situating Public Enemy No. 1 between the Media and the
Academy”

SECTION V: Why are Gender and Sexuality so Often the Focus of Politicized Religion?

Monday May 14: Case Study: The Promise Keepers

*Linda Kintz, “Tender Warriors”

Wednesday May 16: Case Study: Veiling

*Homa Hoodfar, “The Veil in their Minds and on our Heads: Veiling Practices and Muslim Women”

*Riffat Hassan, “Muslim Women’s Rights”

Film: *A Veiled Revolution*

ANALYTIC PAPER 5 DUE

Monday May 21: Case Study: Women in Iran

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*

SECTION VI: Responding to Religious Violence

Wednesday May 23: Hindu Nationalism

*Anupama Rao, “Testifying to Violence: Gujarat as a State of Exception”

Rajeev Bhargava, “Gujarat: shades of black” (*on Carmen*)

Arvind Rajagopal, “Gujarat’s ‘successful experiment’” (*on Carmen*)

Monday May 28- MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday May 30: Violence, Mourning and Politics

*Judith Butler, “Violence, Mourning and Politics”

**FINAL EXAM OR PAPER DUE THURSDAY MAY 31 BY 3PM IN MY BOX IN
451 HAGERTY HALL**