

SENIOR SEMINAR: FALL 2011

Theme: Faith and Violence

Instructors: Amy Plantinga Pauw, Debra Mumford

Gardencourt 215. Ext. 425, Schlegel 203 Ext. 434

amypauw@lpts.edu dmumford@lpts.edu

Senior Seminar description

The Senior Seminar focuses on an area of theological study related to the practice of ministry, providing M.Div. students in their final year of study an opportunity to integrate the various elements of their theological education in a way that contributes to the ongoing discernment of their vocation. Students will produce a substantial essay or project that brings the methods of theological study to bear on problems and opportunities in ministry and that expresses the student's theological vision.

Course: Faith and Violence

Violence in our contemporary world has many stimuli and manifestations. It impacts the lives of people of diverse ethnicities, cultures, geographical, economic and social realities. Though the causes and manifestations are diverse, the results for many people are the same - violence results in pain and suffering for many of the parties involved. As leaders of faith communities, students will be called upon to respond to violence in various forms throughout their ministries. In this course, students will grapple with violence in the Bible and in contemporary life, and study a variety of constructive Christian responses to violence, in order to develop strategies for addressing violence in their own contexts.

Course goals

This course will provide an opportunity for senior students to integrate theological study with pastoral practice and build their capacity for contextual theological-ethical interpretation and analysis. The instructors will work with students to create a space for free, creative, and collaborative theological experimentation/play and discovery. Students will

1. Bring their passions for ministry and theological reflection into productive conversation with religious and cultural traditions,
2. Gain practice in the practices of vocational discernment and ethical discipline,
3. Refine their skills of constructive theological and ethical reflection and expression,
4. Work towards a deeper understanding of the roles of vocation and ethics in the practices of ministry and the life of faith,
5. Continue processes of vocational discernment that are theologically grounded, ethically informed, and that draw on several theological disciplines (biblical studies, historical and constructive theology, ethics, practical theology).

Course requirements

1. *Preparation and participation*: Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, read all assigned material, and enter into thoughtful discussion of the matters the class takes up. "Special Assignments" should be posted on CAMS before the start of class each week, and students should have access to their assignments in class. Students are partners to one another in their work for this course, so conscientious preparation for each seminar meeting is essential.
2. *Topic Description and Progress report*: Students will submit a description of the topic on which they will work in this seminar (due Week 3), and a revised description outlining progress made toward the goal of a completed essay or project, with a bibliography (due Week 5).
3. *Sermon Manuscripts*: Students will submit one sermon manuscript using their choice of suggested texts. Manuscripts must be 3-5 double spaced pages and are due on October 31. Resources for sermon development are referenced in the syllabus.
4. *Senior Seminar essay or project*: The culminating project of the seminar will focus on an area of interest that relates in some way to the seminar topic. The topic should emerge from the student's own theological interests and passions. The project may be expressed in the writing of a substantial essay (about 20 pages). It may also be a performance, a particular practice of ministry, a liturgical project, curriculum, or a work of art, in which case the project submitted would include some demonstration of the practice (where applicable) together with a substantial, written critical analysis (10-15 pages). The final determination of the project, its scope, and resources necessary to produce it will be the work of the student together with the instructors, in collaboration with the other seminar participants. Students, thus, will have an opportunity to draw on the perspectives of their colleagues as the project is conceived and undertaken.
5. *Work-in-Progress Presentation and Sample Reading*: Students will present to the seminar their work in progress (weeks of November 14 and 28), submitting five days in advance of the presentation a written summary (4-6 pages) that will serve as the basis for a student colleague's prepared response (see 6., below). In addition, students will be asked to assign a short reading to accompany their presentations to the class of their work-in-progress. These reading assignments should also be submitted five days in advance.
6. *Response paper*: Students will write a short (2-3 page) response to a student colleague's class presentation of their final essay or project.

Required Texts

Jones, Serene. *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

McClure, John and Nancy Ramsay, eds. *Telling the Truth: Preaching about Sexual and Domestic Violence*,

<http://books.google.com/books?id=evfZ4msdViUC&printsec=frontcover&dq=john+s.+mcclure&cd=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

West, Traci C. *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2010, 2nd ed.)

Quindlen, Anna. *Black and Blue: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 1998.

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Inclusive Language

The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates stereotypes. Do not assume masculine gender when the gender of the person is unknown. When referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors. See <http://www.lpts.edu/AcademicResources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp>.

CALENDAR

Week of September 12 Introduction to the course

West, Traci C. "Contemporary Testimony from Interviews" in *Wounds of the Spirit Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*. Pp. 30-51

Quindlen, Anna. *Black and Blue: A Novel*. Pp. 3-37.

Week of September 19 Domestic Violence

This week, instead of regular class, students will attend the events led by the 2011 Katie Geneva Cannon lecturer, Dr. Traci West:

Lecture on Sunday, Sept. 18, 7:30pm: "What Does Anti-Racist Christian Sexual Ethics Look Like?"

Workshop on Monday, Sept. 19, 10:30am: "U.S. Christianity and Violence against Women"

Clapsis, Emmanuel, ed. "Domestic Violence: Violence Against Women" in *Violence and Christian Spirituality*. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2007. Pp. 133-147.

West, Traci C. "Emotional and spiritual Consequences," in *Wounds of the Spirit Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*. Pp. 55-88.

Quindlen, Anna. *Black and Blue: A Novel*. Pp. 91-132, 268-293.

Special Assignment: Write a one-paragraph response to each of these questions about the novel *Black and Blue*: How is grace mediated to Fran/Beth? How does growing up in a violent household impact Robert?

Week of September 26 Constructive Responses to Domestic Violence

West, Traci C. "Maintaining the Momentum, Sustaining an Ethic of Resistance," in *Wounds of the Spirit Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*. Pp. 181-207.

Turner, Mary Donovan. "Lenten Light: Domestic Violence and Preaching." *Journal for Preachers* 30, no. 2 (2007): 22-27.

John McClure and Nancy Ramsay, *Telling the Truth: Preaching about Sexual and Domestic Violence*,

<http://books.google.com/books?id=evfZ4msdViUC&printsec=frontcover&dq=john+s.+mcclure&cd=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

Part 1: Theological and Biblical Perspectives (read essays by Wendy Farley and Shawn Copeland); Part 2 Pastoral Resources for Telling the Truth (read essays by Marie Fortune and James Poling)

Classroom guest: Kilen Gray, speaking on pastoral responses to family violence

Special Assignment: Topics for final project due

Week of October 3 Community Violence

Jones, Serene. *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*. Pp. 3-42

Bowden, Charles, and Juliâan Cardona. *Murder City: Ciudad Juárez and the Global Economy's New Killing Fields*. Pp. 16-52

Amnesty, International. *Haiti: Don't Turn Your Back on Girls. Sexual Violence against*

Girls in Haiti. New York, NY: Amnesty International Publications, 2008.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR36/004/2008/en/f8487127-b1a5-11dd-86b0-2b2f60629879/amr360042008eng.pdf> (read entire publication)

Special Assignment: Bring to class a news story about a contemporary example of community violence. This can be national or international. Be prepared to explain why you chose it.

Week of October 10 Constructive Responses to Community Violence

Jones, Serene. *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*. Pp. 43-97

Culbertson, Diana. "Preaching the Word in a Culture of Violence." *Word & World* 24, no. 1 (2004): 58-65.

Wiley, Tatha. "Canon and Conscience: A Feminist Perspective." *Word & World* 29, no. 4 (2009): 357-366.

Yoder, John Howard. "The American Civil Rights Struggle" (on MLK) and "The Lessons of the Nonviolent Experience" (on MLK and Gandhi) in *Nonviolence: A Brief History*.

Class: Watch clips of MLK speaking on non-violence

Special Assignment: Description and Bibliography for Final Project Due

Week of October 17 Military Violence

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*. Read these chapters: "The Things They Carried," "How to Tell a True War Story," "Church," "The Man I Killed," "Ambush," "Speaking of Courage," "Night Life," "The Lives of the Dead"

Charles, Daryl. "Christian Ethics and the Use of Force" and "Just-War Theory" in *Between Pacifism and Jihad: Just War and Christian Tradition*.

Special Assignment: Write a one-paragraph response to each of these questions about the novel *The Things They Carried*: From the perspective of the men in Tim O'Brien's unit, what justifies their violence? How does the violence experienced and perpetrated by the men in O'Brien's unit continue to affect them after the war is over?

Research and Study Week

Week of October 31 Constructive Responses to Military Violence

Manchala, Deenabandhu. *Nurturing Peace: Theological Reflections on Overcoming Violence*. Read entire publication.

Miller, Richard B., ed. *War in the Twentieth Century: Sources in Theological Ethics*. Read these essays:

Reinhold Niebuhr, "Why the Christian Church is Not Pacifist"

H. Richard Niebuhr, "War as the Judgment of God"

U.S. Catholic Bishops, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response"

Roetzel, Calvin. "The Language of War (2 Cor. 10:1-6) and the Language of Weakness (2 Cor. 11:21b-13:10)." *Biblical Interpretation* 17 no 1-2 2009, pp. 77-99.

Special Assignment: Sermon manuscripts due

Week of November 7 Sermon discussions

Special Assignment: Read all the class sermons (posted on CAMS) and bring copies of your sermon to class.

Week of November 14 Work-in-progress presentations (summaries and short reading assignments due on Nov. 9) Dinner at Amy's house following class.

Special Assignment: Write a 2-3pp. written response to one classmate's presentation, as assigned.

Week of November 21 No Class

Week of November 28 Work-in-progress presentations (summaries and short reading assignments due on Nov. 23)

Special Assignment: Write a 2-3pp. written response to one classmate's presentation, as assigned.

Week of December 5 Concluding reflections

December 16 Final Projects Due

Some Suggested Sermon Texts (you may choose another passage for your sermon in consultation with the instructors)

Genesis 19:24 God kills everyone (men, women, children, infants, newborns) in Sodom and Gomorrah by raining "fire and brimstone out of heaven."

Exodus 2:11-12 Moses murders an Egyptian after making sure that no one is looking.

Joshua 6:21 "Then they devoted to destruction by the edge of the sword all in the city, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys."

Joshua 7:24-26 "And Joshua ... took Achan ... and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his sheep... And all of Israel stoned them with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones."

1 Samuel 6:19 "The people mourned because the LORD had made a great slaughter among the people."

Judges 1:17, 19 "They defeated the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and devoted it to destruction ... And the LORD was with Judah."

2 Samuel 13 Rape of Tamar and murder of Amnon

2 Samuel 18:6-7, 21:11, 29:5 Military feats of David and Saul

1 Kings 2:24-5 Solomon has his brother (Adonijah) murdered.

1 Kings 2:29-34 Solomon carries out the deathbed instructions of his father David by having Joab murdered.

Psalms 137:9 "Happy shall they be, who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!"

Acts 5:1-10 Death of Ananias and Sapphira

1 Peter 2:18-23 Advice to slaves: "for it is a credit to you if...you endure pain while suffering unjustly."

Revelation 19: 17-21 Vengeful vision of the death of enemies

Faith and Violence Bibliography

Books and Articles

- Adams, C. and Marie Fortune. *Violence against Women and Children: A Christian Theological Sourcebook*. New York, Continuum, 1995.
- Brock, Rita Nakashima and Susan Thistlethwaite. *Casting Stones: Prostitution and Liberation in Asia and the United States*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1996.
- Cahill, Lisa. *Love your Enemies: Discipleship, Pacifism, and Just War Theory*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1994.
- Charles, Daryl. *Between Pacifism and Jihad: Just War and Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2005.
- Clapsis, Emmanuel, ed. *Violence and Christian Spirituality*. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2007.
- Day, Linda, and Carolyn Pressler, eds. *Engaging the Bible in a gendered world: an introduction to feminist biblical interpretation in honor of Katharine Doob Sakenfeld*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006.
- Dietrich, Donald J. *Christian Responses to the Holocaust: Moral and Ethical Issues*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2003.
- Ellul, Jacques. *Violence: Reflections from a Christian Perspective*. New York: Seabury Press, 1969.
- Erickson, Victoria Lee and Michelle Lim Jones. *Surviving terror: hope and justice in a world of violence*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2002.
- Fortune, Marie. *Sexual Violence: The Unmentionable Sin*. New York: Pilgrim Press, 1983.
- Hoffman, R. Joseph. *The Just War and Jihad: violence in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2006.
- Holmes, Arthur F. *War and Christian Ethics: Classic and Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Hunsinger, George. *Torture is a Moral Issue: Christians, Jews, Muslims, and People of Conscience Speak Out*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.

- King, Martin Luther. *The Power of Non-violence*. (1957)
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1131>
- King, Martin Luther. *Nonviolence: The Only Road to Freedom*.
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1426>
- King, Martin Luther. *Nonviolence and Racial Justice*.
<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=468>
- Kirk-Duggan, Cheryl. *Misbegotten Anguish: A Theology and Ethics of Violence*. St Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2001.
- McClure, John and Nancy Ramsay, eds. *Telling the Truth: Preaching about Sexual and Domestic Violence*, available at
<http://books.google.com/books?id=evfZ4msdViUC&printsec=frontcover&dq=john+s.+mcclure&cd=1#v=onepage&q=&f=false>
- Miller, Richard B., ed. *War in the Twentieth Century*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1882.
- Neufeld, Thomas Yoder. *Killing Enmity: Violence the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- O'Connor, Kathleen. *Lamentations and the Tears of the World*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Quindlen, Anna. *Black and Blue: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 1998.
- Ramsay, Nancy J. "Confronting Family Violence and Its Spiritual Damage." *Journal of Family Ministry* 20, no. 3 (2006): 28-40.
- Reimer, James. *Christians and War: A Brief History of the Church's Practices and Teachings*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
- Scarry, Elaine. *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Slattery, Michael. *Jesus the Warrior? Historical Christian Perspectives & Problems on the Morality of War & The Waging of Peace*. Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2007.
- Townes, Emilie. *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993.

Tirimanna, Vimal, ed. *Catholic Teaching on Violence, War, and Peace in our Contemporary World: A Collection of Essays*. Brooklyn Park, SA, Australia: ATF Press, 2007.

Trible, Phyllis. *Texts of Terror: Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984

Villa-Vicencio, C., ed. *Theology and Violence: the South Africa Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

West, Traci C. *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.

Williams, Rowan. *The Truce of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Wink, Walter. *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press 2003.

Wink, Walter. *Peace Is the Way: Writings on Nonviolence from the Fellowship of Reconciliation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2000. (Sixty essays by some of the world's most inspirational voices address theories, practices, and spiritualities of nonviolence.)

Winn, Albert Curry. *Ain't Gonna Study War No More: Biblical Ambiguity and the Abolition of War*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

Yoder, John Howard. *Nonviolence: A Brief History*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

Yoder, John Howard. *The Violence of the Lamb: The Ethics of Nonviolence and Peacemaking*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.

Film resources:

Religion, Power, and Violence WCC video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1K1j9FaH2io> 2min. Martin Luther King on Non-Violence

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74XJJ3Tq5ew&feature=related> 8 min. More substantial interview: Intelligent use of police force can be justified

Student groups:

Presenting Nov. 14

Alex Becker	Response by Beverly Coutts
Beverly Coutts	Response by Alex Becker
Monica Lewis	Response by Sydney Lovelace
Wallace Votaw	Response by Jill Ruhl

Presenting Nov. 14

Derek Hostetter	Response by Lis Valle-Ruiz
Chandra Kearns	Response by Walter Canter
Billy Thomas	Response by Emily Witsiepe
Emily Witsiepe	Response by Billy Thomas

Presenting Nov. 28

Walter Canter	Response by Chandra Kearns
Sydney Lovelace	Response by Monica Lewis
Jill Ruhl	Response by Wallace Votaw
Lis Valle-Ruiz	Response by Derek Hostetter