

Unification Theological Seminary
MIN 5724: Interreligious Prayer in Ministry

Course Syllabus
Fall Term 2021
Cell: 914-261-0468

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Tuesday, 6:30-9:20 PM
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Except for changes that substantially affect the implementation of the evaluation statement (grading), this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus, including the schedule of assignments, instructional modality, exams, and the selected readings.

Course Description:

This course will situate interreligious, interfaith, or multi-faith/multi-religious prayer within the context of the curriculum form of religious education known as liturgy (Maria Harris/Gabriel Moran). The course will make a distinction between the official forms of prayer within the various religious traditions of the world and what is known as creative prayer or paraliturgies, which are unofficial forms of prayer that occur when various interreligious prayer services are planned (Chupungco).

The Calendar of Observances will point out major celebrations throughout the semester, in the various world religions and in particular, the first week of February which is designated as World Interfaith Harmony Week, a week that marks hundreds of interfaith events happening around the world.

The course will explore the historical background for interreligious prayer, the increasing number of interreligious families, the official prayer of several of the world religions, an understanding of revelation that is conducive for a bridge and not a barrier to this prayer, and how principles of inculturation could help with the planning and understanding of interreligious prayer within the United States. Students will have the opportunity to plan an interreligious prayer service of their own.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Distinguish between the official prayer of a religious tradition and the creative and paraliturgical style of an interreligious prayer service.
2. Identify the occasions for interreligious prayer and the historical background in the United States for the popularity of interreligious prayer.

3. Plan a basic interreligious prayer service with a rationale for the prayer regarding the time for the service and the inclusion of different prayers and participants from different religious traditions.
4. Explain and apply principles of inculturation with the planning of interreligious prayer services and explore different interpretations and understandings of revelation as an inclusive or exclusive revelation that serves as a bridge and not a barrier to interreligious prayer.

Required Texts:

Chupungco, Anscar J. *Cultural Adaptation of the Liturgy*. Ramsey, NJ: Paulist Press, 1982. Amazon.com ISBN: 0-8091-2452-1. 14.00-18.00

Moran, Gabriel. *Believing in a Revealing God*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009. Amazon.com ISBN 978-0-8146-5388-3. Various formats and prices: 9.99-12.99.

Moyaert, Marianne, Geldhof, Joris, Ed. *Ritual Participation and Interrreligious Dialogue*. London/New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.

Online text on Populi:

file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/FAITHRitualParticipationandInterreligiousDialogue_BoundariesTransgressionsandInnovations.pdf

Ryan, Thomas. *Interreligious Prayer A Christian Guide*. New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2008. Amazon.com ISBN 9-780809-145133. Range of prices: 12.95-3.00.

How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook. Ed. Stuart M. Matlins and Arthur J. Magida, 2015 6th Edition. ISBN 978-1-59473-593-6. Available at Amazon.com 17.89, Used: 1.99.

Fingerprints of God: What Science Is Learning About the Brain and Spiritual Experience. Barbara Hagerty. 2009. New York, New York: Riverhead Books. ISBN-10: 9781594484629 Amazon: 13.99-16.85

[http://jainlibrary.org/elib_master/jaina_edu/jaina_edu_book/\\$jes911_essence_of_world_religions_000211_data.pdf](http://jainlibrary.org/elib_master/jaina_edu/jaina_edu_book/$jes911_essence_of_world_religions_000211_data.pdf)

Recommended Texts:

How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook. Ed. Stuart M. Matlins and Arthur J. Magida, 2015 6th Edition. ISBN 978-1-59473-593-6. Available at Amazon.com 17.89, Used: 1.99.

Harris, Maria. *Fashion Me a People: A Curriculum of the Church*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.

Laude, Patrick, Ed.. *Pray Without Ceasing: The Way of the Invocation in World Religions*. Bloomington, Indiana: World Wisdom, 2006.

Phan, Peter, C. *Being Religious Interrreligiously: Asian Perspectives on Interfaith Dialogue*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

Rahman, Jamal, Redding Ann Holme, Elias Kathleen Schmitt. *Out of Darkness Into Light: Spiritual Guidance in the Quran with Reflections from Christian and Jewish Sources*. Harrisburg-New York: Morehouse Publishing. 2009.

Readings to be posted.

Requirements and Evaluation:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Attendance and active class participation | (10%) |
| 2. Discussion Forums | (10%) |
| 3. Creative Assignment | (10%) |
| 4. Digital Story | (10%) |
| 5. Two Précis | (10%) |
| 6. Mid-Term Exam | (15%) |
| 7. Planning an Interreligious Prayer Service | (15%) |
| 8. Final Exam | (20%) |

Précis: Students are required to write 2 (two) 1-2 page summary papers with added personal reflections on readings from the class. Students should be mindful of a balance between a summary of information and added personal insights and analysis. It should have a formal heading, double spaced, and size 12 New Roman font with proper page and author citations. Due dates will be part of class calendar.

Discussion Forums: Questions or articles will be posted in the Discussion Forum in Populi for students to add their comments and to comment on at least one of their classmates.

Creative/Artistic Assignment: Students will choose a symbol, or topic/belief covered in one of the World Religions and produce an original creative/artistic assignment of that topic. Minimally, it could be a haiku type of poem, (a three line Japanese poem following a 5-7-5 syllabic pattern per line) or more extensive drawing, painting, sculpture, object, spoken word, music/song, PowerPoint, or video. A collection of articles on religious activities from local media newspapers could also be chosen. A brief explanation should explain the rationale behind the project and be added to the assignment along with any research citations.

Digital Story: Students will create a Digital Story with Script based on a world religions theme or experience of prayer. Tutorials will be provided. Recommended programs: Adobe Spark, i-movie.

Mid-Term and Final Exams will consist of questions and essays based on course materials

Sample Heading for All Assignments:

Précis # and Title of Précis:

Precis #1 Islamic Prayer

Name of Student:

Charles S. Chesnavage, PhD

Course Number:
Date:

MIN 5724 Fall 2018
8/26/18

Planning an Interreligious Prayer Service:

What date would you choose for your prayer service: Thanksgiving, New Years, World Interfaith Harmony Week, a tragic or celebratory civic event?

How many traditions would you invite?

What would be the format of the service based on models examined in class? What prayers would be included as official or unofficial “common” prayers?

What do you estimate the length of the service to be?

How would you advertise the service?

Grading:

Grades are recorded by letter, and are understood as follows:

- A and A- Excellent
- B+, B-, B - Good
- C+, C, C- Acceptable
- D Acceptable, but below expectations
- F Failure

Grading Rubric:

In calculating the final grade for the course, letter grades for assignments are converted into the following numerical equivalents, and the total is then converted back to a letter grade:

A	100-94	A-	93-89	B+	88-85
B	84-79	B-	78-75	C+	74-70
C	69-65	C-	64-60	D+	59-55
D	54-51	D-	50-49	F	48-0

This scale severely penalizes Fs. Therefore, it is better to hand in a poorly done assignment than not to hand one in at all.

In computing the cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) the following quality point scale is used:

A 4.00	A- 3.67	B+ 3.33
B 3.00	B- 2.67	C+ 2.33

C 2.00	C- 1.67	D+ 1.33
D 1.00	D- 0.67	F 0.00

Incompletes are given only when there are compelling medical or personal reasons.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a student passes off someone else's work as their own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's paper, to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites, to handing in a paper downloaded from the Internet. This includes buying or submitting a paper written by a third party. All are considered forms of "plagiarism" and a violation of the Seminary's academic integrity policy. Instances of plagiarism may be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions include probation, suspension or withdrawal.

The first instance of plagiarism in this course, the student must repeat the assignment. If the student plagiarizes again, the student will receive an "F" for the course.

Original Work, Plagiarism, and Assistance in Writing

All written assignments are expected to be original work composed or created by the student, with any use of other sources clearly identified according to accepted academic standards. Citing Wikipedia as an academic source is seriously discouraged. Plagiarism, which is the incorporation of words or ideas from other sources without giving proper credit to the authors involved, will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism, the failure to give proper credit for the words and ideas of another person, whether published or unpublished, is strictly prohibited. All written material submitted by students must be their own original work; where the words and ideas of others are used, they must be acknowledged. [Use footnotes or endnotes]. Additionally, if students receive editorial help with their writing, they should also acknowledge it appropriately.

Credit will not be given for work containing plagiarism, and **plagiarism can lead to failure of a course. Faculty will report all instances of plagiarism to the Academic Dean.** The Academic Dean will then collect documented details of the case and advance any recommendations for further action to the Academic Policy Committee. Through this process the situation will be reviewed and any additional penalties that may be warranted (up to and including expulsion from the school) will be determined.

For clarity as to what constitutes plagiarism, the following description is provided:

1. **Word for word plagiarism:** (a) the submission of another person's work as one's own; (b) the submission of a commercially prepared paper; (c) the submission of work from a source which is not acknowledged by a footnote or other specific reference in the paper itself; (d) the submission of any part of another person's work without proper use of quotation marks.

2. **Plagiarism by paraphrase:** (a) mere re-arrangement of another person's works and phrases does not make them your own and also constitutes plagiarism; (b) paraphrasing another person's words, ideas, and information without acknowledging the original source from which you took them is also plagiarism.

See Part II of **Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations**, (7th Edition, University of Chicago Press, 2007) for an explanation of the proper ways to acknowledge the work of others and to avoid plagiarism.

NETIQUETTE

When posting online or by email, you need to follow the same ethical standards and laws as you would in face-to-face communications. Your language should be respectful of faculty members and fellow students. Do not post private or confidential information about anyone, and do not provide personal information that could put yourself at risk. The Seminaries LMS has robust security measures to protect communication between teacher and student. Yet please be aware that anything that you post in discussions and groups in which other students participate can be retrieved by others and copied.

Do not download and share course materials without permission of the instructor, as this may violate copyright. UTS reserves the right to delete postings on UTS maintained sites that are considered insensitive, harassing or illegal. Language that is illegal, obscene, defamatory, threatening, infringing of intellectual property rights, invasive of privacy, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing abusive, hateful or embarrassing to any person or entity, or otherwise, is a violation of the Student Code.

Course Schedule and Calendar of Observances:

<https://www.adl.org/media/16465/download>

- Week 1, 2/1/22: Student introductions and Course Introduction and Review of Syllabus and Requirements and Evaluation. Dissertation research. Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 2, 2/8/22: Historical Background of World Religions and Prayer. Distinction between official prayer and unofficial prayer. Interreligious Prayer (IP): Gathering of World Religions in Chicago, and Immigration Law
Readings: Ryan: Introduction, pgs. 1-4, Biblical Perspectives, 5-12. Chupungco: Introduction and Ch. 1, History of Cultural Adaptation, 1-41. Paul VI. 1965. *Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions/Nostra Aetate*.
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/va_t-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 3, 2/15/22: **Précis #1 Due**
Contexts for IP: 9/11, Assisi Days of Prayer, World Interfaith Harmony Week, Thanksgiving Services: Two trumpets of tragedy and celebration
Readings: Douglas Pratt: Interreligious Prayer: Prospects and Parameters, 54-63; Parameters for Interreligious Prayer: Some Considerations, 1-5.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 4, 2/22/22: Examples and Models of IP
Ryan: Ch. 2-3: Reflections on Prayer and Worship and Different Forms of Interreligious Prayer, 13-40. Chupungco: Ch. II, The Magna Carta of Liturgical Adaptation, 42-62
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 5, 3/1/22: **Creative Assignments Due**
Models of Revelation and Assumptions of Revelation as Barriers or Bridges to IP; Feminist Hermeneutic
Moran: Christian Interpretation of Divine Revelation, 105-126
Ryan: Ch. 4-5: Practical Considerations and Final Reflections, 41-9.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 6, 3/8/22: **Précis #2 Due**
Interreligious Families and need for IP
<http://www.dovetailinstitute.org>
http://www.foryourmarriage.org/interior_template.asp?id=20398787,
Astrid Lobo. 1998. "The Challenge of Being Different-a Christian-Hindu Marriage." *Journal of the Association of Interchurch Families*. Summer, Vol. 6.2. <http://interchurchfamilies.org/journal/98su12.shtm> .
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.

- Week 7, 3/15/22: **Mid-Term Exam**
Principles of Inculturation and “Passing Over”
John S. Dunne, *The Way of All The Earth: Experiments in Truth and Religion*.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 8, 3/22/22: Prayer as Curriculum form of RE
Maria Harris: Ch. 5, Liturgia: The Curriculum of Prayer, 94-109.
Moran, Ch. 6, Aesthetic Understanding of Believing in a Revealing God, 127-150.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 9, 3/29/22: **Digital Story Topics Due**
Official Prayers of Christianity, Liturgical Year, Symbols, Sacraments
Moran, Ch. 7: Revealing-Believing as Teaching-Learning, 151-172.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
- Week 10, 4/5/22: Official Prayers of Judaism, Liturgical Year, Symbols, Scripture
Boorstein, Michelle. 2015. “Revised Jewish prayer book speaks to gay equality, women, and doubt.” *The Washington Post*, 1-4.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/new-jewish-prayer-book-speaks-to-gay-equality-women-and-doubt/2015/03/08/362caec-c3c0-11e4-ad5c-3b8ce89f1b89_story.html.
Moran, Introduction and Ch. 1: The Word of Lord is Always Spoken Now and Believing In . . . , 1-36.
Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.
Commission for Religious Relations with Jews. 2016. *The Gifts and the Calling of God Are Irrevocable*.
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/relations-jews-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20151210_ebraismo-nostra-aetate_en.html
(Accessed January 19, 2016).
International Council of Christians and Jews. 2009. <http://www.iccj.org/A-Time-for-Recommitment-The-Twelve-Points-of-Berlin.184.0.html>.
- 4/11-15/22 **Spring Break Week**
- Week 11, 4/19/22: **Digital Stories Start**
Official Prayer of Islam: Liturgical Year, Symbols, Scripture
A Common Word between Us and You: Fifth Anniversary Edition. 2007.
English Monograph Series, book 20. <http://www.acommonword.com/the-acw-document/>.
About Religion.com. 2016. “Islamic Prayer Beads: Subha.” Accessed January.
<http://islam.about.com/od/prayer/g/Subha.htm>.
Al Asma ul Husna. 2016. “Islamic Occasions: Al Asma ul Husna.” Accessed November. <http://www.asmaulhusna.com/>.

Peace Education Standing Commission/PESC. 2013. "Welcoming the Other through Religious and Multi-Religious Education Commission Paper," 1-2. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006. *Revelation: Catholic and Muslim Perspectives*. Washington, D.C.: USCCB

Wahiduddin's Web. 2016. "Bismillah al Rahman al Rahim." Accessed January. *Wahiduddin's Web Living from the Heart*, 1. <https://wahiduddin.net/words/bismillah.htm>.

WikiHow. 2016. "How to Pray in Islam." Accessed January. <http://www.wikihow.com/Pray-in-Islam>.

Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.

Week 12, 4/26/22:

Digital Stories Due

Official Prayer of Dharmic Religions: Buddhist, Hindu, Other

Abhishiktanada. 2006. *Prayer*. London: Canterbury Press.

Amaladoss, Michael. 1998. *Beyond Inculturation: Can the Many Be One?* Delhi: Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of India Commission for Dialogue and Ecumenism. 1989. *Guidelines for Interreligious Dialogue*. New Delhi: CBCI Centre.

Paul Knitter, 2009. *Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian*. Oxford: One World.

Pieris, Aloysius. 1987. "Christianity and Buddhism in Core-to-Core Dialogue." *Cross Currents*, 37 (1): 47-75. 993. "An Asian Paradigm: Inter-religious Dialogue and Theology of Religions." *The Month*, 254: 131-132.

Prayer Beads World. 2016. "Prayer Beads World. The Secret of the Beads." Accessed January. http://www.prayerbeadsworld.com/prayer_beads_in_hinduism.html.

Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.

Week 13, 5/3/22:

Meditation and Prayer of Breath as Universal Prayer

Moran Ch. 2 ...a Believing God. 37-60.

Moyaert and Geldhof: Chapter of your choice.

Week 14, 5/10/22:

Interreligious Prayer Services Presentations

YouTube. 015. "Pope Attends Interfaith Service." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOJUPcV2KhY> (Accessed January 3, 2016).

Week 15, 5/17/22:

Interreligious Prayer Presentations

Week 16, 5/24/22

Final Exam Week

Course Outcomes	Novice (1)	Progressing (2)	Mastered (3)	Exceptional (4)	Score
Distinguish between the official prayers of a religious tradition and creative prayer or paraliturgical prayer that is exemplified by an interreligious prayer service.	Can define the official prayer within a given religious tradition. Can define a paraliturgical or creative liturgy.	Can compare and make a distinction between official prayer and creative prayer or paraliturgical prayer.	Can identify the differences between an official prayer service and a creative prayer service.	Can include both official prayers and creative prayers within an interreligious prayer service.	
Identify the appropriate occasions for interreligious prayer services and the historical context of interreligious prayer in the U.S. and World.	Identifies occasions of tragedy, like 911, and civil holidays like Thanksgiving or World Interfaith Harmony Week.	Identifies the UN Resolution designating the first week of February as World Interfaith Harmony Week, and the Assisi Days of Prayer in Rome as key events for Interreligious prayer.	Can explain the previous context of interreligious dialogue and prayer with the 1893 gathering of World Religions in Chicago that would become the World Parliament of Religions.	Can given a rationale as to what context they would choose for planning an interreligious prayer service, and explain the historical background for planning an interreligious service.	
Plan an interreligious prayer service.	Decide an appropriate date for an interreligious service.	After picking an appropriate date, plan a basic layout for a service and order of prayers.	Create a program that includes the order of service, and the specific prayers to be included in the service.	Creates a program that includes date and rationale for the service, the prayers from each religious tradition, and includes a creative prayer and symbolic rituals as part of the service.	
Explain principles of inculturation and different interpretations of revelation as bridges rather than barriers for interreligious prayer.	Explain the meaning of dynamic equivalence as it relates to the meaning of words included in prayer from different religious traditions.	Explain the meaning of an exclusive and inclusive revelation.	Apply the previous two concepts to the impact of Nostra Aetate the Christian Church moving in relationship to non-Christian religions by being more inclusive.	Apply principles of inculturation, like dynamic equivalence, and the differences between an inclusive and exclusive revelation when planning an interreligious prayer service and entering into interreligious dialogue.	

Bibliography

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- Benedict XVI. 2006. "Papal Address to Turkey's Religious Affairs Director." *ZENIT*. <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/papal-address-to-turkey-s-religious-affairs-director>, 2.
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- http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_1998_0624_demello_en.html.
- . 2000. “Instruction on Prayer for Healing.”
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