Fall 2013

Religion, Law, War

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Seton Hall University

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Religion, Law, War
Syllabus

This course will examine wars of religion and religious views of war, focusing particularly on how religion has informed the international laws of war. We are living through an era fraught with religious warfare - wars animated by religious conflict and wars that use religious abuse as weapons to demoralize and subdue the enemy. The course will focus on three major religious traditions (primarily Judeo-Christianity and Islam, but some Buddhism will be brought in) and set in dialogue their respective views of war, assess their contributions to the contemporary laws of war, and examine particular historical episodes of religious conflict - as well as contrary episodes of religious toleration.

Office Hours: My office is 101B McQuaid Hall and my hours for Spring 2014 will be Wednesday 3-4:30 and by appointment.

Grading: 30% of the grade will be based on class participation; this may include doing informal class writing assignments based on the readings, being an assigned discussant of the readings, giving a short report on an additional issue or current event, completing short quizzes on the readings and lectures.

10% will be based on a group project based on a topic related to the Crusades and presented verbally to the class. 20% will be based on an individual 3-4 pp. paper written on the research that the student contributed to the presentation.

The remaining 40% of the grade will be determined by a final paper, on a topic to be determined in consultation with the professor on the basis of an initial list of topics. 10% of this grade will be based on a 1 page “op-ed” summary of the paper’s argument, and 10% on a verbal presentation to the class of the argument.

Laptops are permitted in the classroom but may only be open for specific research assignments, unless they are necessary to accommodate students with disabilities and proper documentation is presented. Notes should be taken by hand. Sometimes (but not always) I will distribute hard copies of slides for the day’s lecture.

PLAGIARISM AND ALL FORMS OF INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY WILL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY, WITH A FAILING GRADE ON THE PARTICULAR EXERCISE OR IF WARRANTED A FAILING GRADE IN THE COURSE AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES_ Students who have a physical, medical, learning, or psychiatric disability, either temporary or permanent, may be eligible for reasonable accommodation. In order to receive such accommodation, students must identify themselves at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), provide
appropriate documentation and collaborate with the development of an accommodation plan.

Books

Arthur F. Holmes, _WAR AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS_
Jonathan Riley-Smith, _OXFORD HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES_
Jessica Stern, _TERROR IN THE NAME OF GOD_

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<th>Sunday</th>
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| **Week One** | Jan 13 | 27 Introduction “What is Just War?”
President Obama’s Nobel Remarks (first 20 minutes);
West Wing, “A Proportional Response,” 5-6, 12-16, 18-22, 33- |
| **Week Two** | Jan 20 | War and the Greeks, Romans, Jews
Readings:
Holmes, pp. 13-31
Deuteronomy
Ex. 14, 32
Watch PBS Documentary, first hour of Part I (“From Jesus to Christ”) |
| **Week Three** | Jan 27 | Class video lecture
Watch PBS From Jesus to Christ (second half of Part I and Part II).
Answer questions on BB re documentary |
| **Week Four** | Feb 3 | Sermon on the Mount – any version
Luke 3
The Book of Revelations
Holmes 48-50, 61-82 (Church Fathers, Augustine) |
| **Week Five** | Feb 10 | Islam: Introduction
Qur’an & Hadith Excerpts (BB)
Film: Islam: Empire of Faith |
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| Week Six   | Feb 17 | Al-Andalus  
Readings:  
Menocal, *Ornament of the World* (BB)  
Lowney, *Vanished World* (BB)  
Watch *Cities of Light* |
| Week Seven | Feb 24 | Crusades I  
Readings:  
Riley-Smith (pp. TBA on BB)  
Holmes, 87-91 (Bernard de Clairvaux); 102-117; 118-125 (Aquinas, de Vittorio); Papal Bull (BB) |
| Week Eight | Mar 3  | Crusades II  
Crusades Presentations DUE |
|            | Mar 10 | SPRING BREAK |
| Week Nine  | Mar 17 | The Protestant Reformation  
Readings:  
Holmes, pp. 140-176 |
| Week Ten   | Mar 24 | Readings:  
Holmes pp. 195-225  
H. Dunant, *A Memory of Solferino*;  
International Committee of the Red Cross  
DETAILED OUTLINE DUE |
| Week 11    | Mar 31 | Geneva Conventions;  
War on terrorism cases (BB) |
<p>| Week 12    | April 7| Jessica Stern, <em>Terror in the Name of God</em> |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th>April 14</th>
<th>Enhanced Interrogation, Torture, Drones, Preemptive War (BB)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>The Responsibility to Protect (BB)</td>
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<td>Class Presentations</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Nuclear Deterrence/Nonviolence/People Power</td>
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<td>Readings:</td>
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<td>Holmes 291-314; 318-341</td>
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<td>Gandhi and Nonviolent Civil Resistance (BB)</td>
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<td>Class Presentations</td>
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<td>FINAL PAPER DUE MAY7 (submitted via BB)</td>
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West Wing

What is the virtue of a proportional response?

What is the virtue of a disproportional response? Why don’t the Generals want a disproportional response?

Why is the United States today compared to Rome?

Obama’s Nobel Prize Speech

What is a Just War?