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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2015

DIPL 3851/CORE 3851 Religion, Law, War

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Prof. Elizabeth A. Wilson
DIPL/CORE 3851

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 Judaism, Christianity and Islam) 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 Fall 2015 will be 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; completely class worksheets; 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.

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
ELEMENTS OF STYLE (I recommend you buy this text, but an out of print version will be circulated with

writing assignments)

BB means that the readings will be available on Blackboard.

	Thursday		
Week Two	9/10	<p>Introduction "What is a Just War?" Watch or Read President Obama's Nobel Remarks, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AORo-YEXxNQ; the text is available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-acceptance-nobel-peace-prize</p> <p>Watch Episode 3 of Season 1 of The West Wing, "A Proportional Response" (the plot line concerning the plane shot down): minutes: 5-6, 12-16, 18-22, 33-end, available on Netflix or Amazon.com (single episode \$1.99).</p> <p>Answer the questions at the end of this syllabus and copy and paste them into an email and send them to me by TUESDAY night 11:59pm Sept 15.</p>	
Week Three	9/17	<p>War and the Greeks, Romans, Jews Readings: Holmes, pp. 13-31 Deuteronomy 20 Watch the first hour ONLY of PBS Documentary "From Jesus to Christ," available at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/watch/.</p>	
Week Four	9/24	<p>Sermon on the Mount - any version: Gospel of Luke 3 The Book of Revelations (bring Bible to class); Holmes 48-50, 61-82 (Church Fathers, Augustine)</p>	
Week Five	10/01	<p>Islam: Introduction Qur'an & Hadith Excerpts (BB) Introduction to Islam (BB) Film: Islam: Empire of Faith</p>	

Week Six	10/08	Al-Andalus Readings: Menocal, <i>Ornament of the World</i> (BB) Lowney, <i>Vanished World</i> (BB) Watch <i>Cities of Light</i>	
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	Thursday		
Week Seven	10/15	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	10/22	Crusades II Crusades Presentations DUE Final Assignment handed out	
Week Nine	10/29	The Protestant Reformation Readings: Holmes, pp. 140-176	
Week Ten	11/05	Readings: Holmes pp. 195-225 H. Dunant, <i>A Memory of Solferino</i> ; International Committee of the Red Cross The Geneva Conventions DETAILED OUTLINE DUE	
Week Eleven	11/12	Jessica Stern, <i>Terror in the Name of God</i>	

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	Thursday		
Week Twelve	11/19	Enhanced Interrogation, Torture, Drones, Preemptive War (BB).	
Week	11/26	THANKSGIVING	
Week Thirteen	12/3	ISIS (BB) Just War and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)(BB)	
Week Fourteen	12/10	ORAL REPORTS	

Worksheet #1

NAME _____

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?

Do you (personally) believe that force is justified for humanitarian reasons? Would you fault the Obama administration for not intervening in Syria?

What does President Obama mean by saying, "No Holy War can ever be a Just War"? Do you think that this contradicts his earlier point that "evil does exist in the world" and force is sometimes justified?
