

## **MSNT 7190 Christian Peacemaking and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Syllabus Spring 2018

Travel Dates May 25-June 4, 2018

### **Course Facilitators**

Rev. Dr. Andrew E. Larsen

email: [andrew.larsen@eccmail.com](mailto:andrew.larsen@eccmail.com)

Participants are encouraged to contact me via email anytime. I will attempt to respond in a timely manner unless delayed by traveling (indicated by an “away” message).

Rev. Dr. Paul . de Neui, Office: N4, Nyvall Hall basement

Office phone: 773-244-6230

E-mail: [pdeneui@northpark.edu](mailto:pdeneui@northpark.edu)

Participants are encouraged to contact me via email anytime. I will attempt to respond in a timely manner but do not respond to emails after 9:00 pm M-F or on weekends.

**Course Description:** This blended travel course will explore Christian peacemaking and reconciliation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through reflection and cultural immersion in the region, including participation in the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference and a tour called Journey to Understanding both sponsored by NPTS’ sister school Bethlehem Bible College. Personal encounter and engagement with the people of Israel and Palestine and those directly impacted by the conflict in the Diaspora will be underlined in the student’s learning experience. Participants will choose among several relevant topics to develop their own theology of peacemaking and reconciliation. Emphasis will also be placed on answering the question of how this conflict is important to the North American church in general, and to Christian discipleship in particular. Pre- and Post-Travel online work required. This course addresses the learning outcome found in all four NPTS degree programs to, “engage diversity and exhibit growth towards intercultural competence for ministry reflective of God’s global redemptive work.” The course also fulfills the intercultural diversity course requirement. Auditors welcome. Physical mobility is a requirement. Pre-travel application must be submitted to course facilitator prior to enrollment. 3 seminary credits.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Engage in theological reflection on conflict, reconciliation and peacemaking from diverse perspectives in the Christian tradition in the context of Israel/Palestine.
- 2) Construct a personal working theology of Christian peacemaking and reconciliation that addresses praxis and communication in contextually appropriate and effective ways.
- 3) Articulate why this conflict is important for the North American church in general and personal Christian discipleship in particular as it relates to the witness of the gospel.
- 4) Acquire knowledge of historical, religious and cultural factors contributing to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that includes current diverse perspectives.
- 5) Assess, evaluate, and compare factors contributing to peace or conflict.
- 6) Develop Christian spiritual perspectives, capacities and disciplines for engaging conflict while tending to the needs of all the affected parties including caregivers.

**Required Learning Materials:**

- Braverman, Mark, *A Wall in Jerusalem: Hope, Healing, and the Struggle for Justice in Israel and Palestine*. Jericho Books, 2013
- Burge, Gary M. *Jesus and the Land*. Baker Academic, 2010.
- Larsen Andy and Yeager, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: A New Look at the West Bank & Jerusalem*, a documentary on Larsen's journey in peacemaking in the region. 2016. Available online through course instructor.
- Olson, Pamela, *Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless Homeland*. Seal Press, 2013.
- Selections of documentaries on Christ at the Checkpoint conference site <http://www.christatthecheckpoint.com/index.php/en/videos/small-documentaries>.

Online Reader posted online including selections from the following

- Atee, Naim Stifan, *Justice, and Only Justice*. Orbis, 1989.
- Canon, Mae Elise, *A Land Full of God: Christian Perspectives on the Holy Land*. 2017
- Friedman, Thomas. "Arsonists and Firefighters: Who Is Setting the Sectarian Fires in the Middle East?" *New York Times*, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Gushee, David P. "Evangelical Peacemakers: Gospel Engagement in a War-Torn World." Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2013.
- Malek, Cate & Mateo Hoke, ed., *Palestine Speaks: Narratives of Life Under Occupation*. 2014.
- Katongole, Emmanuel and Chris Rice Malek, *Reconciling All Things*. "Chapter 5: The Discipline of Lament." Intervarsity Press, 2008.
- Weber, Timothy P., *On the Road to Armageddon: How Evangelicals Became Israel's Best Friend*. 2004.

**Recommended Reading:**

- Abunimah, Ali. *The Battle for Justice in Palestine*. Haymarket Books. 2014
- Ateek, Naim, *A Palestinian Theology of Liberation: The Bible, Justice, and the Palestine-Israel Conflict*. 2017.
- Breaking the Silence* (<http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/>)
- Bourke, Dale Hanson, *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tough Questions, Direct Answers*. 2013.
- Brueggemann, Walter, *Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. 2015.
- Kairos USA, *Call to Action: U.S. Response to the Kairos Palestine Document*. 2012.
- Munayer, Salim & Lisa Loden, *Through My Enemy's Eyes: Envisioning Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine*. Paternoster, 2014.

**Assignments & Participant Responsibilities:**

- 1) **Pre-Travel:**
  - a. Read and interact with the "texts" in the "Required Texts & Learning Materials" listed above.

- b. Write four personal journal entries or blog posts of approximately 400 words. These should incorporate several of the learning objectives for the course. Follow the rubric posted online. Due dates are listed in the course shell.
- c. Address in at least one of your journal entries or blog posts the issue of lament, integrating this as a spiritual discipline for gaining necessary perspective and self-care. Follow rubric provided online
- d. Quiz on readings out of Malik, *Palestine Speaks* to cover:
  - Three different narrative stories
  - The timeline of Modern Palestine
  - Terms in the glossary of important locations, players, and events
- e. Review guidelines for travel and the west-bank. Provided online

**2) During Travel:**

- a) Participation in travel experience in Israel/Palestine including Christ at the Checkpoint conference May 25-June 4, 2018.
- b) Keep a personal journal throughout travel for reference for later assignments.
- c) Conduct three interviews with persons of interest involved in the conflict on location in Israel/Palestine
- d) Reflect together after the conference.

**3) Post Travel:**

- a) Finish two more journal entries by June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Write a 10-15 page "working theology on peacemaking and reconciliation" in the Israel/Palestine conflict incorporating interviews, readings, journaling, viewings of movies/videos, and direct experience. Follow rubric posted online. Final project due by June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Grading:**

Pre-travel Assignments & quiz	Graded	20%
Quiz	Graded	10%
Participation	Pass/Fail	25%
Posting two more blogs	Graded	10%
Post Travel Project	Graded	35%

**PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Regular participation is required for this course. Lack of posting or failure to participate will result in lowering of your course grade. You cannot successfully complete this course without submitting online posts and responses.
2. Course participants are expected to complete assignments in a timely manner following rubrics provided in class and posted in the online course shell.
3. Course participants are expected to interact with all other participants in the course. Interaction with the instructor is also highly encouraged.

**COURSE FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The course facilitator will design the course, the learning components, activities and assignments in such a way that students have every opportunity to achieve the learning objectives.

2. The course facilitator will provide reactions to student responses as appropriate in order to clarify important ideas and concepts.
3. The course facilitator will provide updated information on relevant resources for the various topics of interest.
4. The course facilitator will read and critically assess students' assignments and provide feedback in a timely manner.
5. The course facilitator retains the right to modify the course to best meet the learning goals and needs of the current group of course participants.

**Notes:**

1. The course instructor and facilitator reserve the right to modify the course to best accommodate the learning needs of the class.
2. **Computer and Technical Requirements:** No advanced technology skills are required for the course but basic understanding of online technology will be necessary for successful completion. In order to effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection. Each participant will need an email account and will need to be able to access North Park's Canvas program for this course. All North Park students complete a required online student orientation providing a good working knowledge of Canvas and of the support services available. Please see the Course Information button in your course in Canvas for the Student Support document if you need assistance during your course.
3. **Netiquette:** Use proper online "netiquette" when posting online. Remember there are people on the other end of your communication. Use your best academic writing skills and avoid sarcasm, emoticons, abbreviations or writing in CAPS. Use inclusive language.
4. **Inclusive Language:** NPTS encourages all students to follow the Statement of Inclusive Language from the Board of Publication Policy of the Evangelical Covenant Church which states, "We are committed to being inclusive in language and imagery in an effort to eliminate prejudice, whether gender, racial, ethnic, national, religious, denominational, cultural, or physical. This way of proceeding in no manner seeks to deny personal identity; rather, it guards against any use of word or phrase that tends to exclude people." Consider how you can best incorporate inclusive language into all of your communication (written and oral) during the course particularly in your references to God and to humanity.
5. **Harassment Policy and Title IX:** Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-6222) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5601) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park's

Safe Community site (<http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community>) for contact information and further details.

6. **Academic Accommodation:** NPTS provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found at <https://www.northpark.edu/campus-life-and-services/student-success-and-wellness/disability-resources/>.
7. **Academic Integrity:** NPTS promotes a commitment to integrity in all areas of life. In the case of breaches of academic honesty such as plagiarism or cheating on examinations, the matter will be reported to the Dean of Faculty. Students should be advised that normally in cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism the penalty can range from receiving a failing grade for the assignment to expulsion from the Seminary. For the full policy, please see the seminary academic catalog.

Updated 3 Jan 2018