American University  
Fall 2008  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Professor Gershon Greenberg

RELG 386/686.002 Peace and Religion  
Office: Battelle 114  
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:55 – 8:10 PM, Friday 4:55 – 7:30 PM  
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Peace and Religion will study the attitudes towards peace held by the major religions of the world, from the historical perspective and in the context of the respective religious groundings.

Required for purchase:  
Daniel L. Smith0-Christopher (ed.), Subverting Hatred (SH)  
Harold Coward and Gordon J. Smith (eds.), Religion and Peace-building (RP)

Recommended for purchase:  
James L. Heft (ed.), Beyond Violence (BV)  
Theodore M. Ludwig, The Sacred Paths of the West  
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Available (photocopies) from the Department:  
Henry O. Thompson, World Religions in War and Peace (WR)

Calendar:  
There will be no classes on:  
30 September 2008  
28 October 2008  
Paper due:  
7 October 2008  
Midterm:  
21 October 2008  
Final:  
9 December 2008

Calculation of final grade:  
Midterm:  20%  
Final:  20%  
Paper:  10%  
Attendance:  25%  
Active class participation:  25%

Please note: There will be no make-up dates for exams. No incomplete grades will be issued.

Exams: Each exam will take about 75 minutes and consist of three questions. Each answer is to be about one and a half pages (front/back/front) of the bluebook. No books, no notes. Spelling counts (dictionaries may be used). Use blue or black ink only. Questions will test knowledge of reading
assignments as related to class sessions.

**Attendance:** Each "class" (8:10–10:40) will be divided into two "sections," divided by a 15-minute break. Starting with "A," this portion of the grade will be reduced by half a grade (A to B+, B to C+, etc.) for each "session" missed. To be credited with attendance, attendance sheet must be signed. Late arrivals or early departure must be indicated. A student who falls asleep in class will be instructed to leave and will be marked absent.

**Active class participation:** This portion of the grade will be determined by the instructor's impression of the student's attitude towards and involvement with the course material, and is "subjective." Factors include:
1. unannounced quizzes (closed book, open notes)
2. preparation of assignments, text in class, and in-class note-taking
3. contribution to class discussion
4. placing chairs in circle
5. notification of impending absence.

**Please note:** Students may not talk with each other during class, and may not read extraneous materials during class. Drinking is permitted, eating is not. If a student's cell phone goes off during class, the grade for active class participation will be affected.

**Note on disruptive behavior:** Any student who (in the view of the instructor) disrupts the learning process will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class, and will receive an F for the class participation portion of the final grade. Examples include, but are not limited to, persistently speaking without being recognized, interrupting other speakers, and behavior that distracts the class from the subject matter or discussion. In the event of ongoing disruptive behavior, the instructor reserves the right to issue an F as the final grade for the course. Note: Cell phones must be turned off.

**Paper:** Seven pages in length, typed, double-spaced. Select a topic dealing with the traditional attitude towards peace in one of the religions studied in this course, and place it into the context of the respective religion's classical sources. Using the materials in the required course books as a guide, the paper is to be deepened by consulting the "Recommended Reading," "Bibliography," material in Subverting Hatred, or the "Bibliography" in World Religions in War and Peace, and selecting two books for study. AIC in effect, regarding plagiarism.

**Program**

**A. Ancient America**
1. Native American Religion:
   SH Ch. 5 (Smith-Christopher), RP Ch. 2 (Pesantabbee), WR Ch. 11

**B. Religions of the East**
2. Hinduism: SH Ch. 4 (Shastri), RP Ch. 3 (Gandhi), WR Ch. 4
3. Jainism: SH Ch. 1 (Chapple), WR Ch. 5
4. Sikhism: WR Ch. 6

5. Buddhism: SH Ch. 2 (Queen), RP Ch. 4 (Neumaier), WR Ch. 7

6. Taoism and Confucianism: SH Ch. 3 (Lun), WR Ch. 5, RP Ch. 5 (Berling)

C. Religions of the West

7. Judaism: (Visiting lecture by Marc Gopin) SH Ch. 7 (Milgrom), BY Chs. 4 (Firestone) and 5 (Greenberg), RP Ch. 6 (Gopin), WR Ch. 1

8. Christianity: SH Ch. 8 (Smith-Christopher), RP Chs. 8 (Bartoli) and 11 (Johnson and Eastvold), WR Ch. 2, BV Ch. 6 (Appleby)

9. Islam: SH Ch. 6 (Harris), BV Ch. 2 (Ceric) and 3 (Osman), RP Ch. 7 (Denny), WR Ch. 3