

JASON A. SPRINGS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2015- Associate Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Peace Studies;
Director of Doctoral Studies, *Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies*,
University of Notre Dame
- 2008-2015 Assistant Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Peace Studies,
University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
- 2006-08 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion,
American University (Washington, DC), Dept. of Philosophy and Religion

EDUCATION

- 2005 Ph.D., A.M., Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion,
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2000 MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary, May 2000, ethics, philosophy of religion
- 1996 M.A., Baylor University, 1996, Modern philosophy
- 1995 B.A., Georgetown College, 1995, *cum laude*, Majors: Philosophy, English Lit

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2018 Resident Member Fellowship, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ,
Fall semester, Seminar on Religion and Violence (declined)
- 2015-16 The Louisville Institute, Sabbatical Grant for Researchers (for research leave 2015-16),
Project: *Restorative Justice and the New Jim Crow*
- 2005-06 Princeton University, Post-doctoral Fellow in Christian Thought and Practice,
Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton, NJ

BOOKS

- 2018 Jason A. Springs, *Healthy Conflict in Contemporary American Society: From Enemy to Adversary* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- 2013 Jason A. Springs and Atalia Omer, *Religious Nationalism: A Reference Handbook* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO) [equal authorship].
- 2010 Jason A. Springs *Toward a Generous Orthodoxy: Prospects for Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology* (New York: Oxford University Press).
- In progress monograph entitled *Restorative Justice and the New Jim Crow*

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2016 "Tentacles of the Leviathan? Nationalism, Islamophobia, and the Insufficiency-yet-Indispensability of Human Rights for Religious Freedom in Contemporary Europe," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, December, 84(4): 903-36.
- 2016 "A Wittgenstein for Postliberal Theologians," *Modern Theology*, Vol 32, No. 4 (October): 622-658.
- 2016 "The Cultural Violence of Non-violence," *The Journal of Mediation & Applied Conflict Analysis*, 3 (1), pp. 16-33.
- 2015 "A Tale of Two Islamophobias: Comparative Religious Ethics and the Paradoxes of Civic Nationalism in Contemporary Europe and the United States," *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* Vol. 98, No. 3: 289-321.
- 2015 "'To Let Suffering Speak': Can Peacebuilding Overcome the Un-representability of Suffering? Elaine Scarry and the Case of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," *Peace and Change* Vol. 40, No. 4 (October): 539-560.
- 2015 "Hans Frei's Later Christology: Radiance and Obscurity," *Pro Ecclesia* Vol. 24, No 1: 37-52.
- 2013 "Twenty-Three Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology: A Mellon Working-Group Reflection," With Christian Smith, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Nancy Ammerman, Jose' Cassanova, Hilary Davidson, Elaine Howard Ecklund, John Evans, Philip S. Gorski, Mary Ellen Konieczny, Jenny Trinitapoli, Meredith Whitnah, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 81 (4): 903-938.
- 2012 "On Giving Religious Intolerance its Due: Prospects for Transforming Conflict in a Post-secular Society," *Journal of Religion*, Vol. 92, No. 1 (Jan): pp. 1-30.
- 2012 "Following at a Distance (again): Freedom, Equality, and Gender in Karl Barth's Theological Anthropology," *Modern Theology*, Vol 28, No. 3 (July): 446-77.
- 2012 "Meaning vs. Power: Are Thick Description and Power Analysis intrinsically at Odds?: Response to Interpretation, Explanation, and Clifford Geertz," *Religion Compass* Vol. 6, No. 12 (December): 534-542.
- 2011 "'Next time, try looking it up in your gut!': Tolerance, Civility, and Healthy Conflict in a Tea Party Era," *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Vol. 94, No. 3/4 (Fall/Winter): 325-358.
- 2010 Jason Springs, ed., Cornel West, Richard Rorty, Stanley Hauerwas, Jeffrey Stout, "Pragmatism and Democracy: Assessing Jeffrey Stout's *Democracy and Tradition*," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (June): pp. 413-448.

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Refereed journal articles cont.

- 2009 “‘Dismantling the Master’s House’: Freedom as Ethical Practice in Robert Brandom and Michel Foucault,” *Journal of Religious Ethics*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (Sept), pp. 419-448.
- 2008 “What Cultural Theorists have to learn from Wittgenstein, or, How to Read Geertz as a Practice Theorist,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 76, No. 4 (Dec), pp. 934-969.
- 2007 “The Priority of Democracy to Social Theory,” *Contemporary Pragmatism*, special issue on Cornel West, ed. Eddie Glaude, Vol. 4, No. 1 (June 2007), pp. 47-71.
- 2007 “Between Barth and Wittgenstein: On the Availability of Hans Frei’s Later Theology,” *Modern Theology*, 23:3 (July 2007), pp. 393-413.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- In progress “Restorative Justice and Structural Violence,” for *The Blackwell Companion to Religion and Peace*, eds, Jolyon Mitchell, Lesley Orr, Martyn Percy, and Francesca Po (Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming)
- 2016 “Religion’s Challenge to Classism” in Anthony Pinn, ed., *Just Religion: Race, Gender, Class, and the Environment* (New York: MacMillan).
- 2015 “‘Violence that Works on the Soul’: Structural and Cultural Violence in Religion and Peacebuilding,” *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding*, eds. Atalia Omer, Scott Appleby, and David Little (Oxford: OUP).
- 2014 “Doing Justice Differently: From Revolution to Transformation in Restorative Justice and Political Reconciliation” in *Restorative Justice, Reconciliation, and Peacebuilding*, Daniel Philpott and Jennifer Llewellyn (eds), (Oxford: OUP)
- 2012 “Civil Religion,” in *Religion and Culture: Contemporary Practices and Perspectives*, Richard Hecht and Biondo (eds), (Minneapolis, Fortress Press).
- 2012 “The Difficulty of Imagining Other Persons Re-imagined: Moral Imagination as a Tool for Transforming Conflict” in Jacob Goodson and Brad Stone (eds), *Rorty and the Religious: Christian Engagements with a Secular Philosopher* (Eugene, OR: Cascade).
- 2011 “But did it *really* happen? Hans Frei, Carl Henry, and Karl Barth on Historical Reference and Critical Realism,” *Karl Barth and American Evangelicalism* Clifford Anderson and Bruce McCormack (eds) (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans).
- 2011 “Texts, Worlds, and Translatability: Paul Ricoeur Among the Postliberals,” in *Paul Ricoeur: Honoring and Continuing the Work*, ed. Farhang Erfani (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books)

INVITED LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

- 2018 Keynote Address, "Building Justpeace in the Back of the Yards: Restorative Justice and the New Jim Crow on Chicago's South and West Sides," Grinnell College, March 9, 2018.
- 2016 Public Lecture, "Restorative Justice and the New Jim Crow," George Walker Redding Endowed Lecture, Georgetown College, March 31, 2016.
- 2013 Conference paper, "Hans Frei's Later Christology: Radiance and Obscurity," Conference for the 25 Year Commemoration of the Legacy of Hans Frei, Princeton Theological Seminary, October 12, 2013.
- 2010 Response, "Interpretation, Explanation, and Clifford Geertz," Comparative Study of Religion Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 1, 2010.
- 2010 "Tolerance, Civility and Healthy Conflict," paper presented to the Religion, Ethics, and Politics colloquium, Florida State University, November 19, 2010.
- 2007 "Can Evangelicals be Postliberal too?" Princeton Theological Seminary, *Karl Barth and Evangelical Theology Conference*, June 24-27, 2007.
- 2005 "The Availability of Hans Frei's Later Theology," paper presented to the Karl Barth Society of North America, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, November 2005.
- 2005 "The Subject Matter Matters: Teaching Religion in a Time of War," Address to the Harvard University Colloquium on the Study of Religion, September 29, 2005.

REVIEWS AND OTHER NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2017 Book Review, Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, *Beyond Religious Freedom*, in *Review of Politics*, Vol. 79, No. 2: 316-319.
- 2016 Blog Essay, "Prophetic Dialectic: Response to Cathleen Kavany's *Prophecy Without Contempt*," *Contending Modernities: A Blog about Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* (Sept 1): <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/09/01/prophetic-dialectic/>
- 2016 Book Review, Sam Haselby, *The Origins of American Religious Nationalism*, In *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*
- 2013 Blog Entry, "The Self-Critical Character of Peace Studies," for *24 Peace Scholars: Conversations at the Intersection of Academia, New Media, and World Peace*, March 1, 2013,
- 2012 Blog Entry, co-authored with Atalia Omer, "Johan Galtung, Anti-Semitism, and the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*," for *24 Peace Scholars: Conversations at the Intersection of Academia, New Media, and World Peace*, May 23, 2012
- 2010 Book Review, Eric Gregory, *Politics and the Order of Love: An Augustinian Ethic of Democratic Citizenship*, in *Journal for the Society of Christian Ethics*, in *Journal for the Society of Christian Ethics* (Spring/Summer)
- 2008 Book Review of Kevin Vanhoozer, *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical-Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*, in *Modern Theology*, Vol. 24, No. 1, (Jan), pp. 139-141.
- 2003 Book Review of John Webster and George P. Schner (eds), *Theology After Liberalism* published in *Koinania: Princeton Seminary Graduate Forum*, vol 15,: 116-119

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2018 (scheduled) Respondent, Healthy Conflict in an Era of Trump: Author Meets Critics Panel on Jason Springs' *Healthy Conflict in Contemporary American Society*. Participants: Melvin Rogers, Ebrahim Moosa, Martin Kavka, Rosemary Kellison, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November.
- 2018 (scheduled) Respondent, Author meets critics panel for Anthony Pinn's *When Colorblindness isn't the Answer: Humanism and the Challenge of Race*, Religion and Humanism Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November
- 2016 Panelist, Authors Meet Critics Panel Discussion of the *Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding*, International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March. Participants: John Kelsay, Cecelia Lynch, Atalia Omer, Shaun Casey, Jason Springs.
- 2015 Proposed/convened/chaired, Author Meets Critics panel for Atalia Omer's *When Peace is Not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp Thinks About Religion, Nationalism, and Justice*. Participants: Peter Ochs, Cecelia Lynch, Amir Hussain, Shaul Magid, Atalia Omer; Religion and Politics section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 23.
- 2014 Conference paper, "The Cultural Violence of Nonviolence: Mediating the "Strategic" and "Principled" Divide in Nonviolent Social Change," paper for the Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November, 2014.
- 2014 Conference paper, "The Paradoxes of "Islamophobia" in Contemporary Europe and the U.S.," International Studies Association annual meeting, Toronto, Ontario, CA, March 29.
- 2013 Conference paper, "Religion, Justice, and the Fire This Time: Re-thinking Restorative Justice after Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*," paper for presentation to the Ethics Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.
- 2013 Conference paper, "Transforming Conflict on Sacred Ground: On the Limits and Risks of Inter-religious Engagement in Contexts of Structural and Cultural Violence," Paper for presentation to the Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.
- 2013 Conference paper, "The Indispensability and Limits of Human Rights for Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding," International Conference on the Impact of Religion in Contemporary Europe, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, May 20-22, 2013.
- 2012 Conference paper, "The Indispensability yet Insufficiency of Human Rights as a Basis for Religious Freedom in Contemporary Europe: Reassessing the French Headscarf Ban after the European Court of Human Rights Ruling in *Dogru v. France* (2008)," paper for a joint session of the Religion, Law, and Culture and Religion in Europe groups, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 19, 2012, respondent Winnifred Sullivan.
- 2012 Proposer, organizer and moderator, Author Meets Critics panel for Christian Smith's *What is A Person?* Participants: Aline Kalbian, Kevin Schilbrack, Slavica Jakelic, David Gushee, Christian Smith, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2012; papers collected, submitted, and published in the *Journal of Religious Ethics*

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- 2011 Conference paper, ““Peacebuilding in Contexts of Structural and Cultural Violence,” paper for the Second Emory Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding, Emory University, June 18, 2011.
- 2011 Conference paper, “Religious Dress as Critique and Resistance: Veiling as an Ethical Practice,” paper presented at the Religious Freedom and Human Rights panel, International Studies Association Annual Conference, Montreal, CA, March 17, 2011.
- 2011 Conference Paper, “‘Next time, try looking it up in your gut...’: Agonistic respect vs. the politics of irrationalism,” paper for the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 5, 2011
- 2009 Conference paper, “Thinking Beyond the Limits of Democracy: Religious Intolerance as a Tool for Peacebuilding,” presented to the Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 9, 2009.
- 2009 Conference paper, “Patriotism as National Cult: Civil Religion and Symbolic Violence in Post-9/11 U.S.,” presented to the Religions, Social Conflict and Peace Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 8, 2009
- 2008 Conference paper, “The Difficulty of Imagining Other Persons Re-imagined: On the Virtues of Moral Imagination in Peace Studies,” conference paper, Peace and Justice Studies Association National Conference, September 12, 2008, Portland, OR.
- 2007 External Honors Candidate Examiner, “Religious Belief and Moral Action” exam, Swarthmore College, May 24-26 2007
- 2006 Conference paper, “Nancy Fraser, Robert Brandom, and Michel Foucault on the Ethics and Politics of Self-creation,” presented to the Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group, American Academy of Religion National Conference, November 2006, respondent: Wayne Proudfoot.
- 2006 Colloquium Paper, “What Cultural Theorists have to learn from Wittgenstein, or, How to Read Geertz as a Practice Theorist,” paper presented to the Religion and Public Life Colloquium, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, May 2006, respondent: Martin Kavka.
- 2005 “Religion as a Social Practice: Theology and Cultural Theory in Postliberal theology,” paper presented to the Religion and Public Life Colloquium, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, December 2005, respondent: Nathaniel Klemp.
- 2005 Respondent, Religion in Public Life Colloquium, Princeton University, "Overturning Oligarchy: The Emerging Constitutional Theory of the Religious Right," by Nate Klemp, October 2005.
- 2004 “The Priority of Democracy to Social Theory: Cornel West and Prospects for Radical Social Criticism” (revised), Northeast Ethics Colloquium, Brown University, March.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

American Academy of Religion (steering committee member: Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought group)

National Association of Community and Restorative Justice

Society of Christian Ethics

International Studies Association

Reviewer for Cambridge University Press, *Journal of Religion*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Political Theology*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Sociological Theory*, *Modern Theology*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*

EXAMPLES OF COURSES TAUGHT

Structural and Cultural violence, Ph.D. seminar,

This course offers an in-depth analysis of the roles of structural and cultural violence in religion, ethics, and peace studies. Unit 1 (conceptual/theoretical) explores field-formative debates over the nature, basis, and viability of “structural violence” and “cultural violence” as analytical concepts (esp. Johan Galtung, Kenneth Boulding), asking how they have shaped (or failed to, but perhaps ought to shape) the field of peace studies. We will examine their critical appropriations of early critical theory (Herbert Marcuse), and assess comparable theoretical approaches such as reflexive sociology (Pierre Bourdieu and Loic Wacquant), post-structural analysis (Michel Foucault), later critical theory (Nancy Fraser, Drucilla Cornell, Judith Butler, David Hoy). We will ask what advantages, if any, lenses of structural and cultural violence have vis-à-vis these resources for peace analysis and peacebuilding, and where they need to be supplemented. Unit 2: (cases/agents) studies cases in which some version of these analytical lenses have been deployed for purposes of peace analysis and peacebuilding. We examine recent uses of these lenses to examine poverty, global development, and global health in building peace (e.g. Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Paul Farmer, Gustavo Gutierrez, Peter Uvin, Akhil Gupta), the role of environmental violence (Rob Nixon), and the strengths and limits of these lenses in engaging gender-identified/intimate/”domestic” violence (Joshua Price), race and class (Michelle Alexander, Margaret Pfeil on mass incarceration in the U.S), and religious/cultural identity (Veena Das, Jean Zaru).

Love and Violence: Religion, Civil Disobedience, and Nonviolent Social Change, Seminar, Undergrad upper level

This course traces the emergence and development of nonviolence resistance from the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and early abolitionist struggle against slavery, to the influence Thoreau and Emerson exerted upon Mahatma Gandhi on questions of non-violent civil disobedience. We examine Frantz Fanon’s advocacy of violent revolution in response to French colonialism in the Algerian War of Liberation, and activist Barbara Demming’s jui-jitsu like application of that argument for non-violent direct action. We look further at Gandhi’s exploration of the power of non-violence in light of the Sermon on the Mount and the Bhagavad Gita, and his correspondence with the Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy. We further factor into this story the critique of Gandhi in B.R. Ambedkar’s “The Annihilation of Caste,” and the recent reconstruction of this debate by Indian essayist and social critic Arundhati Roy. We examine how this complex mosaic of influences came to influence the emergence and development of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s work in the Civil Rights Movement and Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam, and the Black Power movement in the U.S. throughout the 1960s. Readings include: Emerson, Thoreau, Garrison, Lincoln, Frantz Fanon, Barbara Deming, Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Arundhati Roy, Leo Tolstoy, George Orwell, King, Malcolm X, Dorothy Day, Gene Sharp, Cornel West.

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Ethical Perspectives on Restorative Justice, Peace Studies Senior Seminar, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

This seminar explores the viability of restorative justice practices as an alternative to the retributive justice system in the United States, with specific attention to the rise of the prison-industrial complex since 1980 and its precursors in the “tough on crime” movement of the 1960s, the “war on drugs” campaign of the 1980s, and the advent of the “new Jim Crow.” Readings include Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*, Sr. Helen Prejean, *The Death of Innocents*, Douglas Blackmon, *Slavery By Another Name*, Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Howard Zehr, *Changing Lenses*, Kay Pranis, Barry Stuart, Mark Wedge, *Peacemaking Circles: From Crime to Community*, Carolyn Boyes-Watson, *Peacemaking Circles and Urban Youth*

When Tolerance is not Enough: Religion, Justice, and Human Rights, Seminar

This class examines the concept of toleration, attending specifically to its application to religious conflict in contemporary U.S. and European contexts. We examine the difference between free speech and hate speech, the controversies pertaining to religious freedom in contemporary France, Holland and Britain, and Islamophobia and religious nationalism in the U.S (i.e. the “Ground Zero Mosque” controversy). Readings include: Martha Nussbaum, *The New Religious Intolerance*, Joan Scott, *Politics of the Veil*, Wendy Brown, *Regulating Aversion*, Ian Buruma, *Murder in Amsterdam*, Michael Ignatieff, *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry*; Talal Asad, Brown, Butler, Mahmood, *Is Critique Secular?*

Peace vs. Justice: What is ‘Justpeace’? advanced undergraduate elective

This class takes up a careful examination of what it means to say that justice and peace must be sought together (e.g. that “peace is the work of justice”), and explores the range of ethical tools and frameworks that are necessary in order to integrate justice and peace. Is it possible to think in terms of—and to work for—“justpeace”? Readings Include: Edward Said, Peter Singer, Richard Rorty, Elaine Scarry, Jeffrey Stout, Diana Fritz Cates, Glen Stassen, John Paul Lederach, Arundhati Roy.

Theories of Democracy and Human Rights, advanced undergrad elective

This class will study the Kantian and utilitarian background of John Rawls’ *A Theory of Justice*, libertarian and communitarian criticisms of Rawls, his later revisions in *Political Liberalism*, and how this emerged in the “Religion in Public Life” debates in North American religious and philosophical thought. We will then examine the historical and theoretical context of the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and explore how a range of contemporary theories of rights either cohere or conflict with multiculturalism, identity politics, marginal communities, and religious particularity. Finally we will ask: Does human rights need God, or some source of divine or metaphysical justification, to remain coherent? Readings will include: John Locke, Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Michael Sandel, Jeffrey Stout, Cornel West, Robert Audi, Nicholas Wolterstorff, Martha Minnow, Susan Okin, Iris Marion Young, Charles Taylor, Martha Nussbaum, Michael Walzer, Amartya Sen.

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Theory and Method in Peace Studies and Peace Research, PhD Seminar

This course investigates a range of methodological approaches to studying concepts and related phenomena around which peace studies organizes itself (e.g. peace, peacebuilding, types of violence, domination, oppression, conflict, war, and so forth). We will seek to make explicit, understand, and critically investigate the theoretical presuppositions, value commitments, and orientations that each method presupposes and employs. Like it or not, a fundamental level of “jargon-literacy” in cross-disciplinary methodological concepts and tools is requisite to understand and engage one’s colleagues across the interdisciplinary field of peace studies. As peace studies scholars you will encounter—and need proficiency—with terms such as *reductionism, positivism, historicism, hermeneutics, normativity, genealogy, deconstruction, critical theory, discourse, power, liberation, feminism, intersectionality, colonialism, orientalism, self-reflexivity, reflective practice*, among others. Readings include: Hilary Putnam, *The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy*, Sandra Harding, *Feminism and Methodology*, Paolo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge, *Intersectionality*, Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, Edward Said, *Reflections on Exile*, Ashis Nandy, *The Intimate Enemy*, Donna M Mertens, Fiona Cram, and Bagele Chilisa, *Indigenous Pathways into Social Research*

“If God is Dead then Everything is Permitted”: God, Evil, and Moral Absolutes

This class asks whether a concept of God is necessary to sustain moral thinking based upon moral absolutism. We will explore certain theistic forms of moral reasoning such as divine command theory, moral law, and religious justifications of natural rights. We will then survey various modern attempts to justify and sustain moral frameworks apart from any religious traditions. We will take up the problem of evil, first, as classically conceived, and then as reconceived in the 20th century by thinkers such as Hannah Arendt in the wake of the Holocaust. Readings include: Plato’s *Euthyphro*, Sophocles’s *Antigone*, Rousseau, Voltaire, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Hannah Arendt, Michael Perry, Christine Korsgaard, Iris Murdoch, Sissela Bok, Kai Nielsen, William Alston.

The Quest for Certainty from Plato to Wittgenstein: Introduction to Philosophy and Religion

This course surveys several important thinkers and approaches of thinking that span the western philosophical tradition. We will examine questions such as: What is the basis for knowing anything beyond the shadow of a doubt? What is the difference between knowing and believing? Can belief in God be rational? Is it possible to be moral if there is no God? Is it possible to rationally justify our moral choices? We will pay particular attention to themes of skepticism, belief, doubt, rational justification, goodness, justice, freedom, mind and subjectivity. Readings include: John Dewey, *The Quest for Certainty*, William James, “The Will to Believe,” David Hume, “Of Miracles,” Stephen Toulmin, *Cosmopolis*, Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Sabina Lovibond, *Realism and Imagination in Ethics*, William Placher, *Unapologetic Theology*.