

Rel 205: Religions and War

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Instructor: Katy Gray Brown

Admin Bldg Room 216

KLGrayBrown@manchester.edu

Phone: ext. 5217

Home: 982-4765 (until 9pm please)

Office hours by appointment & TBA

Required Texts:

1. Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, *Saving Christianity from Empire*, Continuum, 2007
2. Robert Jewett & John Shelton Lawrence, *Captain America and the Crusade against Evil*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004
3. Bhikhu Parekh, *Gandhi: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2001
4. ANGEL postings and class handouts
5. New York Times front page (available at www.nytimes.com)

Course Objectives:

- 1) Students will understand aspects of fundamentalism (both within various religious traditions and in the context of nationalism)
- 2) Students will develop an awareness of the role of religion as an influencing factor in instances of social and political conflict
- 3) Students will understand some of the ways that religion can contribute to violence, with particular attention to the phenomenon of war, and some of the ways that religion can work to mitigate such violence.

Requirements

Attendance and participation: 15%

A rubrick describing participation expectations will be posted on the Angel site. All assignments are expected to be completed *prior* to class on the designated day. More than two absences will affect your grade, with each additional absence reducing the final grade by 1 step (e.g. from a B- to a C+).

Quizzes: 20%

There will be a brief quiz at the beginning or end of almost every class. Reading assignments, class lectures, and peacemaker biographies (see description below) are all fair game for quiz material. The lowest quiz score will be dropped before calculating the final grade.

Peacemaker biographical presentation (10%) and analytical essay (15%): 25%

You will be assigned by lottery a peacemaker to research for a class presentation and essay. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes long. A description of items to include in the presentation is posted on Angel.

The analytical essay (2-3 pages) will be due on the date of your presentation. A description of the essay assignment is posted on Angel.

Exams: 2 @ 20% each = 40%

There will be two non-cumulative exams over the assigned readings and class discussions.

See class ANGEL site for more information regarding reading and assignment schedules, class expectations and disability accommodations.