This is the draft syllabus and under revision. Final copy at first week of the course

School of Theology & Ministry
Seattle University
Seattle, WA 98122-1090
Spring Quarter, 2012

Course Information:

STMM 593: **Spirit of Reconciliation: Contemporary Ecumenical and Interreligious Approaches**
Credits: 3
Mondays: 1:30 to 4:20 PM
Hunthausen, Room 160

Instructor:
Michael Reid Trice, Ph.D.
Office: Hunthausen, Room 207
Office Hours: Thursday Afternoons and by Appointment
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course seeks to address the subject of ecumenical and interreligious contributions to the labors of reconciliation in local, regional, national and international contexts. What is the spirit of reconciliation today? How do Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives on reconciliation influence approaches to resolving conflict? Why is it difficult to forgive; and why are some efforts successful whereas others fail? Do apology and forgiveness matter?

The course will consider multiple methodologies, theories, and contextually situated approaches for peace-building and reconciliation in the face of conflict today. Forces that contribute to tomorrow's conflict will be assessed. Theological optics on reconciliation will be

in constant conversation. The course will identify the skills necessary to religious leaders in addressing conflict and the challenges of the 21st century.

The course endeavors to increase student awareness of major trends and themes in ecumenical and interreligious efforts toward reconciliation today. The course seeks to encourage students toward a sense of personal and social responsibility for their own role in assisting communities of peace amidst the disintegration of ourselves and our world. Students will be guided by our readings, in seminar discussion, through prayers, film, reflections, and assignments for the purpose of critically engaged theological reflection.

Learning Outcomes:

Ability to read primary and secondary texts critically (MDiv, MAPS, MATS); Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can enter another's worldview (MDiv, MAPS, MATS); Student awareness of their own social location/assumptions/hermeneutics as they engage texts and ideas in their own lives, communities and society at large (MDiv).

Ability to reflect theologically on reconciliation as a central theme and value of faith; Ability to assess a theology of reconciliation in order to inform ecclesial leadership; Ability to articulate one's relationship with God, as it is informed by the theological reflection on reconciliation; Ability to draw critically and constructively on the Christian moral tradition of reconciliation to lead toward a more just and sustainable world; Ability to be a responsive, discerning listener who can engage in the process of discussion on ecumenical and interreligious reconciliation.

Required Texts:

- Bieringer R, Bolton D. Eds. *Reconciliation in Interfaith Perspective: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Voices*. Leuven, Belgium. Peeters Publishers, 2011.

- Lazare, Aaron. *On Apology*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2004.

- Lederach, John Paul. The *Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*. London: Oxford University Press, 2005.

- Peace, Jennifer Howe, Or N. Rose and Gregory Mobley, Eds., *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012.

- Schreiter, Robert. *Reconciliation: Mission & Ministry in a Changing Social Order*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992.

Recommended Texts (No Need to Purchase):

Appleby, R. Scott, *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence and Reconciliation.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Litlefield, 2000.

Bender, Courtney and Pamela E. Klassen, *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

Baron-Cohen, Simon, *The Science of Evil: On Empathy and the Origins of Cruelty*. New York: Basic Books, 2011.

Clapsis, Emmanuel, Ed., *Violence and Christian Spirituality: An Ecumenical Conversation*. Geneva: World Council of Churches Publications. 2007.

Coward, Harold and Gordon S. Smith, Eds., *Religion and Peacebuilding*. (SUNY series in Religious Studies), Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2004.

Gort, Jerold D., Hendrik M. Vroom and Henry Jansen, Eds. *Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation: Multifaith Ideals and Realities.* Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2002.

William R. Hutchison, *Religious Pluralism in America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

Lederach, John Paul. *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2003.

McKanan, Dan. *Prophetic Encounters: Religion and the American Radical Tradition*. Beacon Press, 2011.

Philpott, Daniel and Gerard F. Powers, Eds., *Strategies of Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World.* (Studies in strategic peacebuilding series) New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Schreiter, Robert J. Schreiter, Ed. *Peacebuilding: Catholic Theology, Ethics and Praxis*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010.

Smith Wilfred Cantwell, *The Meaning and End of Religion*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991 edition.

Susin, Carlos Luiz and Maria Pilar Aquino, Eds., *Reconciliation in a World of Conflicts*. London: SCM Press, 2003.

Volf, Miroslav, *Exclusion and Embrace.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Volf, Moroslav, *Allah: A Christian Response*. New York: HarperCollins. 2011.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

September 24

Title: *A Spirit of Reconciliation – Dialogue Between God and a Suffering Humanity Prt. I*

Recommended: Schreiter, Chapter One; Luis Carlos Susin, *Reconciliation in a World of Conflicts* (Intro.), 80-90 and 109-116 (H); View National Geographic film 'In God's Name: Wisdom from the World's Great Spiritual Leaders' with attention to 00.00.00 to 00.03.13 and 1.20.38 to 1.29.22.

Themes: Introduction to the Course, Review the Syllabus, Working Definition of Reconciliation from the Ecumenical Locus, Interreligious Dialogue is about God, Humanity, and Suffering.

October 1

Title: *A Spirit of Reconciliation – Dialogue Between God and a Suffering Humanity Prt. II.* Symposium to Follow: The Narrative of the Lie

Required: Professor Robert Schreiter (Entire book); Ambivalence of the Sacred (H) Chptr 1, with attention to 'ambivalence' and 'ambiguity'

Recommended: W. Hutchison, *Religious Pluralism in America* (Ch. 9 – Whose America Is It Anyway? (H). Schreiter – *The Distinctive Characteristics of Reconciliation* (H).

Themes: Schreiter's 'spirituality' of reconciliation as healing first, the Narrative of the Lie; Interreligious Dialogue is about God, Humanity and Suffering

Our Guest: Professor Robert Schreiter – A priest and member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Prof. Schreiter has published seventeen books in the areas of inculteration, world mission, and reconciliation. Professor Schreiter is scheduled to join the course via Skype for an Hour.

October 8

Title: *Trending the Ecumenical – What in the World is Going On?*

Required: Bieringer & Bolton – Part I (Intro., Bieringer, Schreurs, Saritoprak); How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part I – *Encountering the Neighbor*; *Nostra Aetate,*
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html

Recommended: W. Hutchison, *Religious Pluralism in America* (Intro.) (H)

Themes: *Major ecumenical trends in the 20th and 21st centuries; the exemplar of Lutheran-Mennonite global relations;*

Our Guest: Rabbi Daniel Wiener – *Working Toward Greater Understanding in Jewish-Muslim-Christian Relations.* Rabbi Wiener is Senior Rabbi of Temple De Hirsch Sinai and has been lauded for his interfaith efforts. His columns appear in the Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer

October 15

Title: *Trending the Interreligious – Being Christian in a World on the Ropes*

Required: Bieringer & Bolton – Part I (Reinhartz, Bolton) Appleby, Ch 4 (121-166) (H); How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part II – *Viewing Home Anew*.
Recommended: TBA
Themes: What makes religion true? Sacred Texts and religious conflict; Appleby's 'militants for peace'; pluralism and hate groups; multi-faith partners today
Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: _____.

October 22
Title: *The Ultimate Dialogue in Monotheism – Cruelty, Creativity, Community*
Required: How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part III – *Redrawing Our Maps*
Recommended: (This will be shown in class) View National Geographic film 'In God's Name: Wisdom from the World's Great Spiritual Leaders' with attention to 00.39.12-00.42-12; Trice, *Encountering Cruelty*, Intro. And Chptr. 1 (H); Baron-Cohen, *The Science of Evil*, pp. 1-14 (H).
Themes: Encountering the 'other'; creative responses to human trespass – from Cain to Job; Peace-building and truth-telling; memory and the past – "re-membering well"
Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: _____.

October 29
Title: *Dialogue as Encounter – Religious Pluralism in the American Experience*
Required: Lederach, *The Moral Imagination* – Chptrs 1-7 (pgs. 3-74); Bieringer & Bolton – Part II (Pratt and Maeseneer)
Recommended: Bender and Klassen, *After Pluralism (Introduction: Habits of Pluralism)* (H); Wilfred Cantwell Smith, *The Meaning and End of Religion* (*Introduction*) [This is a classic text that continues to inform scholarship today] (H).
Themes: Religious Pluralism continued; continuing the Discussion of 'encounter'; encountering my neighbor's faith; who pardons the past?; Christian peacebuilding in the context of religious pluralism.
Our Guest: Sanaa Joy Carey: (Bio here)

November 5
Title: *Reconciliation in Public Theology and the Courageous Moral Imagination Prt 1*
Required: Lederach, *The Moral Imagination* – Chptrs 8-12; How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part IV – *Unpacking Our Belongings*
Recommended: Appleby, Ch 5 (167-204);
Themes: The witness and the message of reconciliation, the moral imagination continued, unpacking our belongings.
Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: _____.

November 19
Title: *Reconciliation as Peace-Building and the Moral Imagination (Prt 2)*
Required: Lederach, *The Moral Imagination* – Chptrs 13-15, Epilogue; How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part V – *Stepping Across the Line*

Recommended: TBA
Themes: Reconciliation as peace-building, the moral imagination, a shared moral platform for peace, stepping across the line.
Our Guests: John Reid and Carol Guenther – Senior Consultants from The Reid Group. The Reid Group is a dynamic organization involved with religious partners toward building a better world.
Student Case Studies: _____.

November 26
Title: *The Spirit of Reconciliation – Dialogue and Apology Prt 1*
Required: Lazare, *On Apology* – Chptrs. 1-6; How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part VI – *Finding Fellow Travelers*
Recommended: Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace* (*Introduction*) (H);
Themes: Apology, elusive forgiveness, finding fellow travelers.
Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: _____.
Student Case Studies: _____.

December 3
Title: *The Spirit of Reconciliation -- Dialogue and Apology Prt 2*
Required: Lazare, *On Apology* – Chptrs. 7-12; How, Rose and Mobley, *My Neighbor's Faith*: Part VII – *Repairing Our Shared World*
Recommended: TBA
Themes: Apology continued, forgiveness continued, reconciliation and our shared mission in the world, repairing our shared world.
Student Case Studies: _____.

Requirements:

A. ***Completion of reading assignments.*** All reading assignments should be completed prior to the class on which they are assigned, in order to ensure robust conversation.

B. ***Attendance and participation in class*** – *30% of Grade:* Since absence and tardiness, even when they are "excused," diminish your participation in class, they will likewise diminish your participation grade. Moreover, because classmates and instructor deserve your full attention, food and smart phones are expected to be packed away during class time (not counting the fifteen-minute break). If you take notes on a laptop, I expect you to refrain from social networking during class time. Any of these activities will diminish your participation grade.

C. ***Completion of weekly one-page reflections*** – *20% of Grade:* For each class you will be expected to turn in a one-page paper (literally, a single sheet). These are a total of **nine**

reflections for the quarter. In the **first paragraph**, I want you to respond to specific topic, theme or value that is chosen from the week's assigned readings, discussion or lecture. In the **second paragraph** you are to engage with the primary or secondary literature. Choose something you found especially significant, insightful, challenging, or problematic, etc., and respond to it. *On the day these reflections are used in class, they are likewise to be posted in Angel in the weekly Turnitin Dropbox, and will be graded based on how thoughtfully you engage the assigned reading for that class*. **Late one-page reflections will not be accepted but will receive a zero.**

D. ***Class Leadership on Assigned Readings*** – *5% of Grade*: Course leadership involves students (assigned during the first week of the course) engaging the class in discussion on the critical themes raised in our texts. This does not mean summarizing the text. Please distribute an outline of your discussion to me and each student at the beginning of the class session. The exercise should be approximately thirty minutes.

E. ***Case Studies*** – *15% of Grade*: This assignment consists of the presentation of one Case Study on the theme of reconciliation (assigned during the first week of the course). This Case Study should be between three to five double-spaced pages and is to be accompanied by a PowerPoint or Prezi Presentation to be shown in the course. Be prepared to present for 20 minutes, followed by a 20 minute discussion on your topic.

F. ***Completion of Final Paper*** – *30% of Grade*: Student Proposals are due on the fifth week of the course – **October 22nd**. Proposals must be typed, double-spaced, only one page long, and should persuade the reader of your ability to construct your paper in a meaningful manner. Papers must address a current conflict in the world that involves religion. The paper must address the conflict, community or geo-religious implications, and identify themes (or potential themes) of reconciliation within the conflict. In addition, the paper will utilize primary tools discovered throughout the course for assessing conflict, working through reconciliation, and with awareness of ecumenical and interreligious realities. The final paper must be both informed and creative in both description and approach to seeking reconciliation. **All papers are due on the last day of our STM assigned exam period. Late papers are docked ten points per day until turned in.**

Citation Format

Students in the Pastoral Counseling degree submit papers with citations in APA (American Psychological Association) format delineated by the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.* All other students submit papers with citations in CMS (Chicago Manual of Style) format delineated by *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers.* The basic rules for these style formats may be found at the following websites:

- **APA:** http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/ (Diana Hacker website/social

sciences)

- **CMS** http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/ (Diana Hacker website/history) *or* http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html (CMS website) At times students need assistance with the writing process itself. In addition to face-to-face assistance offered by Seattle University's Writing Center (McGoldrick Learning Commons 2nd Floor), two websites offer online assistance with writing

- **Seattle University Writing Center:** http://www.seattleu.edu/writingcenter/ (Resources)

- **Purdue Writing Center:** http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Special Requirements or Needs: If you have or think you may have a disability (including an "invisible disability" such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, 206-296-5740.

Academic Honesty: The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook (see the Seattle University website).

Final Grade Calculation:

Your final grade will be calculated thus:

Attendance and participation in class – 30%
Completion of weekly one-page papers – 20% of Grade
Class Leadership on Assigned Readings: 5% of Grade
Case Studies: 15% of Grade
Completion of Final Paper – 30% of Grade

Your letter grade will be determined thus:

A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99

C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.99
F	59 and below