RECONCILATION: UNDERSTANDING THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

Course Syllabus: SE621

RECONCILATION: UNDERSTANDING THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT
Rev. Dr. Gregg Detwiler

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a graduate level course in conjunction with the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference (www.christatthecheckpoint.com) to be held in Bethlehem, Palestine on March 5-9, 2012. [The actual on-the-ground dates for the “Student Delegation” is March 2-12. Students are required to attend the conference and may stay for the entire Student Delegation experience or expanded tour offerings if they are able. See more info below.] The course is intended to increase understanding of issues of peace, justice, and reconciliation in the Middle East as well as ramifications for engagement of these issues in our own ministry context.

All students who enroll for this course are required to attend the entire conference as the major part of the course. Students are also required to attend a half-day class (8:30am-12:30p @ CUME) on a Saturday prior to the Conference to help prepare the students for the theological and practical tensions that the Conference will likely surface and another half-day class (8:30am-12:30p) on a Saturday after the Conference for reporting, analysis, and team learning. They must also attend two Boston-area worship services - one at an Arabic Church and another at a Messianic Congregation - prior to or after the Conference.

Course Outcomes:

• To expose on-the-ground realities to the obstacles of reconciliation and peace between Israel and Palestine
• To better understand the various theological perspectives through which Christ’s followers interpret the conflict, including the often-overlooked Palestinian Christian perspective
• To create a platform for serious engagement with Biblical Zionism and an open forum for dialogue between all positions within the Evangelical theological spectrum
• To motivate and equip students to become advocates for the reconciliation work of the Church in Palestine/Israel and its ramifications for the Middle East and world
• To better understand the interconnections of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict with our own context of ministry and to be better equipped as ministers of reconciliation in our own contexts of ministry
Required Reading:

*These books may be purchased at the CUME book center; the other books are available for purchase on-line at Amazon, Wipf & Stock, or Musalaha websites.

Recommended Reading:

Course Requirements:
As this is a practical learning course, apart from the Conference itself, mandatory attendance on both Saturday classes and participation in group discussions is required. No exceptions will be made. Students will be asked to present their written critical reflections on what they have read, seen and heard. All students are required to read required text numbers 2,3 & 4 and readings in course documents section of CAMS before the first Saturday session, required reading text number 5 should be read prior to the conference, and required reading text numbers 1 and 6 before the final Saturday session. Students will present their written critical reflections (2-page max per book/CAMS Reading, i.e. like a Book Review) during the class periods when the assignments are due. Failure to complete the reading requirements may result in a grade penalty.
**Contract Grading:**

Grading will be based upon both fulfilling the grade level requirements and the quality of work submitted. It is not possible to receive a letter grade higher than contracted, though it is possible to receive a letter grade lower than contracted. For example, if a student contracts for a "B" and performs "A" quality work on their assignments, that student would receive no higher than a "B+" grade. But, if a student contracts for a "B" and performs "C" quality work on their assignments that student would receive a "C" grade for the course. Students may adjust their grade contract simply by requesting in writing (or e-mail) by March 16. Contracts for grades will be due on first Saturday of the class.

**"C"-Level Requirements:**

1) Mandatory class and Conference attendance and participation in discussions.
2) Reading Requirements and critical reflections as mentioned above.
3) An 10-12 page double-spaced reflection paper including reflections on the Conference, the readings, and the visits to the Arabic/Messianic congregations. A significant portion of the paper should include how the practical experience of this course may relate and contribute to students' past, present and future ministry contexts.

**"B"-Level Requirements:**

1) Mandatory class and Conference attendance and participation in discussions.
2) Reading Requirements and critical reflections as mentioned above.
3) A 18-20 page double-spaced reflection paper including reflections on the Conference, the readings, and the visits to the Arabic/Messianic congregations. A significant portion of the paper should include how the practical experience of this course may relate and contribute to students' past, present and future ministry contexts.

**"A"-Level Requirements:**

1) Mandatory class and Conference attendance and participation in discussions.
2) Reading Requirements and critical reflections as mentioned above.
3) A 28-30 page double-spaced reflection paper including reflections on the Conference, the readings, and the visits to the Arabic/Messianic congregations. A significant portion of the paper should include how the practical experience of this course may relate and contribute to students' past, present and future ministry contexts.

**Costs & Student Delegation Schedule/Registration**

In addition to your standard GCTS course fees, the cost of the student delegation conference package is $775.
This price includes:
• Room and board (breakfast and dinner)
• Sight-seeing options before and after the conference
• $400 conference registration
• Fees for local coordinators and guides

The price does NOT include:
• Airfare
• Airport Transportation
• Lunches
• Travel insurance
• Personal expenses

On-line Registration and further details on the Student Delegation and complete schedule may be found at http://www.middleeastfellowship.org.

Costs & Extended Tour Boston Delegation Schedule/Registration
There are four additional options for Boston Delegation participants in lieu of the Student Delegation Option. These options are:
• “Conference Only Registration” - $400
• Option 1: 6 days/5 nights - $1175
• Option 2: 8 days/7 nights - $1490
• Option 3: 10 days/9 nights - $2190

On-line Registration and further details on these options may be found at http://www.christatthecheckpoint.com/index.php/registration-options/us-packages

Final Paper Return: If you would like your graded paper mailed to you please provide a large postage paid self-addressed envelope on the last day of class; otherwise papers will be returned to CUME.
### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date / Time</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before Pre-Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Saturday Class</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Saturday Session - Feb 18 (date TB Confirmed)</strong></td>
<td>Reading Required texts 2,3,4 completed</td>
<td>Three 2-pg written Critical Reflections</td>
<td>Pre-Con Saturday Session - Feb 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Saturday Session - Feb 18 (date TB Confirmed)</strong></td>
<td>• Preparation for the Conference&lt;br&gt;• Framing Theological Tensions&lt;br&gt;• Peace, Justice, Reconciliation</td>
<td>One 2-page Written Critical Reflections of Text</td>
<td>Post-Con Saturday Session - Feb 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before Conference -</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Christ At The Checkpoint Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Min Participation:</strong> March 5-9&lt;br&gt;<strong>Extended Participation:</strong> March 2-12</td>
<td>• Reading Required text 5&lt;br&gt;• Attend first of two worship services - Practical Experience of local Messianic/Arab worship service</td>
<td>Written Critical Reflections (included in final paper)</td>
<td>During Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>After Conference -</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Christ At The Checkpoint Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Min Participation:</strong> March 5-9&lt;br&gt;<strong>Extended Participation:</strong> March 2-12</td>
<td>• Attend entire Conference March 5-9 (or one of the extended participation options)&lt;br&gt;• Participate in the International Student Delegation Conversations at the Conference</td>
<td>Written Critical Reflections (included in final paper)</td>
<td>Post-Con Saturday Session - Date TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Post-Conference Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Saturday Session - April 7 (date TB Confirmed)</strong></td>
<td>Attend second of two worship services - Practical Experience of local Messianic/Arab worship service</td>
<td>Two 2-pg Written Critical Reflections</td>
<td>Post-Con Saturday Session - Date TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-Conference Saturday Session - April 7 (date TB Confirmed)</strong></td>
<td>• Presentations/Group Dialogue: Theological Reflection based on conference, readings, and visits to Arabic/Messianic Congregations&lt;br&gt;• Group Dialogue: Considering ramifications of this experience within present and future ministry contexts&lt;br&gt;• Group Dialogue: Being Agents of Reconciliation &amp; Peace in Today’s World</td>
<td>Three-page outline OR Rough Draft of Required Paper</td>
<td>Post-Con Saturday Session - April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit final draft of paper</td>
<td>If desired, include postage-paid SASE for return</td>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Deadline - April 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>