



### Building Abrahamic Partnerships (DI-650) Winter/Spring 2006

This eight-day intensive training program offers a practical foundation for mutual understanding and cooperation among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Participants learn about the tenets and practices of the three faiths, study texts from their respective scriptures together, attend worship at a mosque, synagogue, and church, and acquire pastoral skills useful in interfaith ministry. Combining the academic and the experiential, the course includes ample time for socializing over meals and during breaks. Building on Hartford Seminary's strengths as an interfaith, dialogical school of practical theology, this team-taught program is a resource for religious leaders who are grounded in their own traditions while open to the faith orientations of other communities.

#### Meeting Day, Time and Dates:

Sunday, January 22 – Sunday, January 29 (intensive schedule, includes some evenings)

#### Yehezkel Landau

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[Course Syllabus](#)

[Visit the BAP web site](#)

Course Faculty: Prof. Yehezkel Landau, Prof. Kelton Cobb, Prof. Ingrid Mattson, Prof. David Roozen, Rabbi Amy Joy Small, Imam Yahya Hendi, and Rev. Donna Manocchio

Course Assistant: Abdullah Antepi  
Artistic facilitator: Hannah Merriman

**Course Overview:** Hartford Seminary, building on its strengths as an interfaith, dialogical school of practical theology, has designed this innovative program to be a practical resource for Jews, Christians, and Muslims who seek a solid foundation in interfaith ministry. The format is an 8-day intensive training program, beginning with an informal dinner on January 22 and concluding with a dinner on January 29.

**Course Rationale and Objectives:** Our society needs a new kind of religious leadership, grounded in a particular tradition and, at the same time, able to interact effectively with other faith communities. This is especially true given the prevalence of fear and mutual suspicion, exacerbated by violence committed by religious extremists.

We need to develop educational strategies to overcome the ignorance that leads to prejudice, which in turn leads to dehumanizing contempt, which in turn breeds violence.

The goals of the course are fourfold:

- Educating participants about the beliefs and practices of the three Abrahamic traditions
- Creating a supportive learning community in which clergy, lay ministers, religious educators, and chaplains can forge mutually beneficial relationships across communal boundaries
- Helping participants acquire pastoral skills useful in interfaith ministry
- Developing leadership strategies for promoting interfaith relations in our pluralistic society

**Course Content:** Topics for discussion and shared experiences will include:

- Presentations clarifying the tenets and practices of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Historical overviews of the three traditions and how they have interacted in history
- Shared text study using source material from all three traditions
- Visits to a mosque, a synagogue, and a church for worship and subsequent discussion of those liturgical experiences
- Demographic and sociological data on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in America
- Skills and sensitivities needed to establish and sustain effective interfaith partnerships
- The role of the media in creating images of one another, and strategies to counter negative media stereotypes
- Developing ideas for joint interfaith projects in local communities

**Methods of Delivery:** Lectures, panel discussions, text study, artistic exercises, videotapes, facilitated conversations, visits to houses of worship, shared meals

**Methods of Assessment:** For those taking the course for credit, class participation will count for 20% of the course grade; a daily journal of one's reflections on the experience will count for an additional 30% of the grade; and a final paper approximating 15 double-spaced pages will count for 50% of the grade. **The paper and the**

**Journal reflections are due by May 1, 2006.** The final paper should relate to one of the two broad themes addressed by the course: theoretical approaches to improving interfaith relations, and practical strategies or initiatives aimed at promoting Abrahamic partnerships. It is recommended that a student consult with one or more of the course faculty before writing the final paper, to get input on how to approach the intended topic and what resources to use in researching it.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Sunday, January 22: Informal opening dinner, 7 p.m., in the Meeting Room.

Preliminary introductions and general overview of the course program; distribution of sacred texts for group study and notebook with supplemental readings. "Before" questionnaires will be handed out for completion by the following morning.

### **Monday, January 23: Morning session, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

Welcome by course faculty; explanation of course objectives and requirements; general reflections on the challenges confronting interfaith facilitators, the obstacles or hurdles impeding Abrahamic partnerships, and general principles or guidelines for conducting interreligious conversation

SUGGESTED READINGS: "*The Dialogue Decalogue: Ground Rules for Interreligious, Interideological Dialogue*" by Leonard Swidler, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, 20:1, Winter 1983 (September, 1984, revision); NOT WITHOUT MY NEIGHBOUR: ISSUES IN INTERFAITH RELATIONS by S. Wesley Ariarajah, Geneva: WCC Publications, 1999, chapters 1, 2, and 3 (both in Supplemental Readings)

Interfaith exercise (facilitated by Prof. Yehezkel Landau)

After the break: "*Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Congregations in America: A Survey of Current Trends*" (lecture/discussion facilitated by Prof. David Roozen)

READING: "*Meet Your Neighbors: Interfaith Facts*" booklet, Faith Communities Today/Hartford Institute for Religion Research, 2003 (distributed Sunday evening)

SUGGESTED READING: THEY AND WE: RACIAL AND ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES (5th Edition) by Peter I. Rose, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1997.

### **Afternoon session, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Interfaith text study (course staff): understanding the ambivalence of sacred texts--the exclusive as well as inclusive dimensions, the peaceful and the intolerant/violent messages--using selected passages from the Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, and Qur'an and from the oral/post-scriptural traditions (afternoon session devoted to Jewish texts; all texts to be distributed in advance)

SUGGESTED READINGS: THE AMBIVALENCE OF THE SACRED: RELIGION, VIOLENCE, AND RECONCILIATION by R. Scott Appleby, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; "*Violent Faith*," by Kelton Cobb, in SEPTEMBER 11: RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES, edited by Ian Markham and Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi', Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2002, pp.136-163; THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE BELOVED SON: THE TRANSFORMATION OF CHILD SACRIFICE IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY by Jon D. Levenson, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993; THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC IN THE THREE MONOTHEISTIC TRADITIONS, edited by Frederic Manns, Jerusalem: Franciscan Printing Press, 1995; VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED by Rene Girard, Baltimore/London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979; THE BIBLE, VIOLENCE, AND THE SACRED: LIBERATION FROM THE MYTH OF SANCTIONED VIOLENCE by James G. Williams, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991; CONSTANTINE'S SWORD: THE CHURCH AND THE JEWS by James Carroll, Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001; THE ART OF FORGIVENESS: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON HEALING AND RECONCILIATION by Geiko Muller-Fahrenholz, Geneva: WCC Publications, 1997.

### **Evening session, 7 to 9:30 p.m.**

A panel discussion on "*What Do We Mean by Spirituality?*" co-led by Imam Yahya Hendi, Rabbi Amy Joy Small, and Rev. Donna Manocchio. Topics to be addressed include: language as a medium of spiritual devotion, including gender-specific references to the Divine; silence, meditation, chanting, and body movement as alternative modes; liturgical commonalities and differences in styles of prayer; how prayers in one tradition are heard/experienced by adherents of another, especially prayers that refer to the Other

SUGGESTED READINGS: A GUIDE TO JEWISH PRAYER by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, New York: Schocken Books, 2000; MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD by Abraham Joshua Heschel, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954; ENGENDERING JUDAISM by Rachel Adler, Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1998; SHE WHO DWELLS WITHIN: A FEMINIST VISION OF A RENEWED JUDAISM by Lynn Gottlieb, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1995; JEWISH PRAYER: THE ORIGINS OF THE CHRISTIAN LITURGY by Carmine Di Sante, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1991; PRAYING THE PSALMS by Walter Brueggemann, Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 1986; THE INTERIOR CASTLE or THE MANSIONS by St. Teresa of Avila, Rockford, Illinois: TAN Books and Publishers, 1997; THE SINGER AND THE SONG: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE SPIRIT by Miriam Therese Winter, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999; PRAYING WITH ICONS by Jim Forest, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997; MUSLIM DEVOTIONS by Constance E. Padwick, Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1996; MY SOUL IS A WOMAN: THE FEMININE IN ISLAM by Annemarie Schimmel, Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 1998; MUSLIM PREACHER IN THE MODERN WORLD by Richard T. Antoun, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989.

### **Tuesday, January 24: Morning session, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

Continuation of interfaith text study, positive and negative passages from the Christian tradition.

Lunch break (food to be provided), 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.: PowerPoint presentation on "*Scriptural Commonalities in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Qur'an*" by Imam Yahya Hendi

### **Afternoon session, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Continuation of interfaith text study, positive and negative messages from the Islamic tradition.

**Evening Panel Discussion, 7 to 9:30 p.m.**

A conversation on "*Religion and the Media*" with guest resource people: Anisa Mehdi, TV documentary producer; Frances Grandy Taylor, religion writer for the *HARTFORD COURANT*; and Mark Silk, director of the Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College and editor of the journal *RELIGION IN THE NEWS*.

**Wednesday, January 25: Morning session, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

Introduction to Jewish beliefs and practices, Biblical/Rabbinic tradition, and contemporary Judaism in its different forms (Prof. Yehezkel Landau and Rabbi Amy Joy Small).

READING: *BASIC JUDAISM* by Rabbi Milton Steinberg, San Diego and New York: Harcourt, Inc., 1975.

SUGGESTED READINGS: *JEWISH LITERACY* by Joseph Telushkin, New York: William Morrow and Company, 2001; *JUDAISM: REVELATION AND TRADITIONS* by Michael A. Fishbane, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1987; *THE JEWISH WAY: LIVING THE HOLIDAYS* by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988; *STANDING AGAIN AT SINAI: JUDAISM FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE* by Judith Plaskow, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991; *ON WOMEN AND JUDAISM: A VIEW FROM TRADITION* by Blu Greenberg, Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1981; *LIVING JUDAISM* by Rabbi Wayne Dosick, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1998; *FINDING OUR WAY: JEWISH TEXTS AND THE LIVES WE LEAD TODAY* by Barry W. Holtz, New York: Schocken Books, 1990; *THE JEWISH APPROACH TO GOD: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION FOR CHRISTIANS* by Rabbi Neil Gillman, Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2003; *JEWISH SPIRITUALITY: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION FOR CHRISTIANS* by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001; *TALKING TO THE OTHER: JEWISH INTERFAITH DIALOGUE WITH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS* by Rabbi Jonathan Magonet, London/New York: I. B. Taurus, 2003.

**Afternoon session, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Stereotypes and misunderstood aspects of Judaism, including: election/chosenness, Torah as "sacred teaching" rather than legalistic rules; the land and state of Israel, the connection between Zionism and Judaism (Prof. Yehezkel Landau and Rabbi Amy Joy Small)

Video: two reports (from CNN and Israeli television) on the Open House Center for Jewish-Arab Coexistence in Ramle, Israel, with commentary by co-founder Prof. Yehezkel Landau

SUGGESTED READINGS: *ISRAEL: AN ECHO OF ETERNITY* by Abraham Joshua Heschel, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1969; *A LAND OF TWO PEOPLES: MARTIN BUBER ON JEWS AND ARABS*, edited with commentary and new preface by Paul Mendes-Flohr, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2005; *IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL* by Amos Oz, London: Flamingo/Fontana Paperbacks, 1983; *VOICES FROM JERUSALEM: JEWS AND CHRISTIANS REFLECT ON THE HOLY LAND*, edited by David Burrell and Yehezkel Landau, New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1992; *AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN: A JEW'S SEARCH FOR HOPE WITH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN THE HOLY LAND* by Yossi Klein Halevi, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2002; *THE END OF DAYS: FUNDAMENTALISM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE TEMPLE MOUNT* by Gershom Gorenberg, New York: The Free Press, 2000; *HOLY WAR, HOLY PEACE: HOW RELIGION CAN BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST* by Rabbi Dr. Marc Gopin, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002; *HEALING THE HOLY LAND: INTERRELIGIOUS PEACE-BUILDING IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE* by Yehezkel Landau, PEACEWORKS No. 51, Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, September, 2003; "*Jews, Muslims, and Peace*," by Yehezkel Landau and Yahya Hendi, *CURRENT DIALOGUE*, No. 41, June-July, 2003, Geneva: World Council of Churches, pp. 12-13; *HEALING ISRAEL/PALESTINE* by Rabbi Michael Lerner, San Francisco: Tikkun Books, 2003.

**Wednesday evening: OFF, OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIALIZING OR REST**

**Thursday, January 26: Morning session, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

Introduction to Christian beliefs and practices, including an overview of different Christian demoninations (Prof. Kelton Cobb and Rev. Donna Manocchio)

READING: *CHRISTIANITY: A WAY OF SALVATION* by Sandra S. Frankiel, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1985.

SUGGESTED READINGS: *TO BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH* by Martin B. Copenhaver, Cleveland: United Church Press, 1994; "*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*," and "*Psalm Eight*" from *THE DEATH OF ADAM: ESSAYS ON MODERN THOUGHT* by Marilynne Robinson, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998, pp. 108-125 and 227-244; *CREDO* by William Sloane Coffin, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004; *MY STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, MEMOIRS* by Hans Kung, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003; *PRACTICING OUR FAITH: A WAY OF LIFE FOR A SEARCHING PEOPLE*, edited by Dorothy C. Bass, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1997; *MANY MANSIONS: A CHRISTIAN'S ENCOUNTER WITH OTHER FAITHS* by Harvey Cox, London: William Collins Sons & Co., 1988; *COMMON PRAYERS: FAITH, FAMILY, AND A CHRISTIAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE JEWISH YEAR* by Harvey Cox, Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001; *MUHAMMAD AND THE CHRISTIAN: A QUESTION OF RESPONSE* by Kenneth Cragg, London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1984; *THE MONKS OF TIBHIRINE: FAITH, LOVE, AND TERROR IN ALGERIA* by John W. Kiser, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002; *JOHN PAUL II IN THE HOLY LAND: IN HIS OWN WORDS*, edited by Lawrence Boadt, CSP, and Kevin di Camillo, New York and Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2005.

**Afternoon session, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Stereotypes and misunderstood aspects of Christianity, including: the doctrine of the Trinity; the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus; and the meaning of evangelism (mission or witness?) (Prof. Kelton Cobb and Rev. Donna Manocchio)

SUGGESTED READINGS: *THE MEANING OF JESUS: TWO VISIONS* by Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright,



New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1999; PAIN AND POLEMIC: ANTI-JUDAISM IN THE GOSPELS by George M. Smiga, New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1992; "The Rehabilitation of Mission," presentation by Prof. Dale Bishop delivered at Hartford Seminary, February 12, 2004.

**Evening session, 7 to 9:30 p.m.: Sensitivities and Skills for Interfaith Partnerships**

What kinds of communications skills are required for establishing and sustaining interfaith relationships? How can we listen more compassionately, suspend judgment, give empathy, and speak with sensitivity to the Other's situation? To what should we give attention in reaching out to, or hosting, someone from another faith community?-- e.g., language that honors the Other, sacred calendars, prayer times, dietary restrictions, etc. How do we find common ground, or at least agree to disagree respectfully, on controversial issues such as proselytizing, shared worship, and intermarriage? (facilitated by Imam Yahya Hendi, Rabbi Amy Joy Small, and Rev. Donna Manocchio)

**Friday, January 27: Morning session, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

Introduction to Muslim beliefs and practices (Sunni and Shi'a), with attention given to cultural variety within the Islamic *umma* (community) (Prof. Ingrid Mattson and Imam Yahya Hendi, with Abdullah Anteppli)

READING: *THE HEART OF ISLAM: ENDURING VALUES FOR HUMANITY* by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2002.

SUGGESTED READING: ISLAM AND THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY by Frederick M. Denny, Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 1998; WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ISLAM AND MUSLIMS by Suzanne Haneef, Chicago: Kazi Publications/Library of Islam, 1996; READING THE MUSLIM MIND by Hassan Hathout, Burr Ridge, IL: American Trust Publications, 1995; THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ISLAM by Yahya Emerick, Indiana: Alpha Books, 2002; UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: A GUIDE FOR THE JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN READER by Jerald Dirks, Maryland: Amana Publications, 2003; THE FAITH AND PRACTICE OF AL-GHAZALI by W. Montgomery Watt, Chicago: Kazi Publications, 1982; THE STORY OF A MOSQUE IN AMERICA by Dr. Faroque Khan, Westbury, NY: Islamic Center of Long Island, 2001; DAUGHTERS OF ANOTHER PATH: EXPERIENCES OF AMERICAN WOMEN CHOOSING ISLAM, by Carol L. Anway, Lee's Summit, MO: Yawna Publications, 1996; TO BE A EUROPEAN MUSLIM by Tariq Ramadan, Leicester, UK: The Islamic Foundation, 1999; MUSLIMS AND JEWS: BUILDING A HOPEFUL FUTURE, edited by Norman Hosansky and Mazhar Jalil, Columbus, OH: The Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio, 2003.

Mid-day: Visit to Mosque in Berlin, CT (hosted by Imam Prof. Ali Antar), followed by lunch and discussion; bus trip back to Seminary in time for rest and preparations for Shabbat

Evening: Shabbat dinner at the Seminary, followed by lecture/discussion led by Prof. Ingrid Mattson on stereotypes and misunderstood aspects of Islam, including rights and opportunities for women, Greater and Lesser Jihad, attitudes towards non-Muslims, and concepts of the afterlife.

SUGGESTED READINGS: QUR'AN AND WOMAN: REREADING THE SACRED TEXT FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE by Amina Wadud, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999; "BELIEVING WOMEN" IN ISLAM: UNREADING PATRIARCHAL INTER-PRETATIONS OF THE QUR'AN by Asma Barlas, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002; WINDOWS OF FAITH: MUSLIM WOMEN SCHOLAR-ACTIVISTS IN NORTH AMERICA edited by Gisela Webb, Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2000; "Islamic Ethics of Killing and Saving Life," special issue of THE MUSLIM WORLD, guest editor Jonathan E. Brockopp, Vol. LXXXIX, No. 2, April 1999; REBELLION AND VIOLENCE IN ISLAMIC LAW by Khaled Abou El Fadl, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; NONVIOLENCE AND PEACE BUILDING IN ISLAM: THEORY AND PRACTICE by Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2003; "Stopping Oppression: An Islamic Obligation," by Ingrid Mattson, in SEPTEMBER 11: RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES, edited by Ian Markham and Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi', Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2002, pp. 101-110; QUR'AN, LIBERATION & PLURALISM by Farid Esack, Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 1997; "Islam" in THE DEATH AND AFTERLIFE BOOK by James R. Lewis, Canton, MI: Visible Ink Press, 2001, pp. 200-203.

**Saturday, January 28:**

Visit to Beth David Synagogue (Modern Orthodox, Rabbi Yitzchok Adler) or Congregation Beth Israel (Reform, Rabbi Stephen Fuchs) for Sabbath morning prayers, followed by *kiddush* (light meal) and discussion at Beth David Synagogue, facilitated by Rabbi Yitzchok Adler

Rest of Saturday: OFF, OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIALIZING OR REST

**Sunday, January 29:**

Visit to Immanuel Congregational Church (Rev. Ed Horstmann) or Trinity Episcopal Church (Rev. Don Hamer) for Sunday worship, followed by lunch and discussion at Hartford Seminary

Late afternoon, 4 to 6 p.m.: Artistic exercise and discussion with representatives from the local Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities; "After" questionnaires distributed

**Evening, 7 to 9:30 p.m.:**

Closing dinner and farewells...*SHALOM, SALAMAT, PEACE*