

ETHICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Fall, 2010
PHI 304 H1

Jim Armstrong, Professor
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the relationships of ideology, devotion and commitment to social change. What roles do belief and zealotry play in personal development, for good or ill? What motivates Muslim terrorists, killers of abortion doctors, and those who seek to serve the human family? The lives of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Malcolm X, Aung San Suu Kyi, and others will be studied. Students will be led to a better understanding of their own motivation and roles in society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Faithful class attendance.
2. Active and informed participation in class discussions.
3. Read and assimilate required material; i.e., texts and handouts.
4. Write brief, occasional reaction papers as assigned.
5. Write two major papers (10-12 pages, double spaced).
 - (a) Study two major figures; e.g., Gandhi and Jinnah, Dom Helder Camara and Archbishop Romero, Cesar Chavez and Walter Reuther, Sarah Palin and Rachel Maddow, highlighting contrasts, similarities and impacts on society. Make an oral presentation to the class based on your research. (Due September 29)
 - (b) Compare the life and teachings of Mohammad to Islamic fundamentalist terrorism today and the life and teachings of Jesus to the beliefs and practices of the Religious Right (extreme expressions of Christian fundamentalism) today. (Due November 10)
6. Final Exam

(Observe the Rollins Honor Code and so indicate on each submitted paper.)

REQUIRED READING

Armstrong, Karen. *Mohammad: A Prophet for Our Time*. Harper, 2006.
Deyoung, Curtis Paul. *Living Faith: How Faith Inspires Justice*. Fortress. 2007.
Hendricks, Obery M., Jr. *The Politics of Jesus*. Doubleday, 2006.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bethge, Eberhard. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Man of Vision, Man of Courage*. Fortress, 2000.
Malcolm X, *The Biography of Malcolm X*. Grove, 1965.
Victor, Barbara. *The Lady: Aun San Suu Kyi*. Faber and Faber, 2004.

Alter, Jonathan. *The Promise: President Obama, Year One*. Simon and Shuster, 2010.
Bush, George W. *A Charge to Keep*. William Morrow and Company, 1999.
Obama, Barack. *Dreams from My Father*. Three Rivers Press, 1995, 2004.
Schaeffer, Frank. *Crazy for God*. DeCapo Press, 2007.
Sharlet, Jeff. *The Family*. Harper Perennial, 2009

FILMS TO BE VIEWED

“The Road to 9/11” (PBS)

“Bonhoeffer: Agent of Change”

Barack Obama’s speech on Islam and the Middle East delivered at the University of Cairo

Interviews with: Elie Wiesel

Desmond Tutu

Nelson Mandela

“Islam: Empire of Faith (PBS) at the Armstrong home, September 10. Voluntary attendance and participation for extra credit.

(Professor Armstrong’s office is in his home. Students are encouraged to call him and meet with him. He will be available for conversation, counsel and guidance.)