

Unitarianism: A Global Vision

MEADVILLE LOMBARD THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Semester: Fall 2009:
Course Number Units: 1
Professor: Reverend Doctor Qiyamah A. Rahman

PURPOSE: This course is a survey course on Unitarian history from the sixteenth century to the present. It is designed to provide an appreciation of Unitarianism in a global context. It exposes students to some of the significant historical events and key personalities that have shaped Unitarianism and links them to the larger movement of Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalists around the world.

As our global village shrinks more and more everyday, the implications for education expand dramatically. The use of technology to identify and provide educational opportunities has created this course on Unitarianism: The Global Vision. Rethinking traditional class room boundaries through non-traditional formats have led to distance learning, continuing education and extension/branch campus opportunities that pose unlimited possibilities. Thus, this course is designed to take advantage of the technology to explore the presence and contributions of the 500,000 Unitarians around the world and their relationship to the 200,000 Unitarian Universalists in the United States of North America. Thus, its secondary goal, to foster an international community of Unitarians, Universalists and Unitarian Universalist scholars.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This graduate seminar course is designed to be both theoretical and practical. Participants will be able to:

1. identify and discuss resources, frameworks and appropriate goals for understanding and critiquing Unitarianism from a global perspective
2. enhance critical thinking skills through online discussions and papers
3. understand, analyze and critically evaluate a wide range of issues and texts about Unitarianism in a global context using sociological, and theological categories
4. communicate verbal and written presentation clearly, cogently and critically
5. identify and discuss diverse geographical locations of Unitarianism
6. write a sermon or lecture on Unitarianism about designated topics and countries
7. begin to understand the basics of globalization; its impact around the world; and articulate some reflections regarding Unitarianism and globalization
8. develop global organizational contacts with the larger Unitarian Universalist world and to tap into existing global networks that inspire social justice, and serve as a source of sharing and exchanging.

Expectations:

1. Active participation in on-line class discussions and assignments
2. Reading of required materials
3. Completion of written assignments; including journals

4. Submission of a research paper, completed by due date. Research proposals should be submitted in advance to the instructor.

Course Website - After you register for the course, you will be able to access moodle with a password that will be provided (connect through www.meadville.edu). The purpose of the website is to facilitate discussions and assignments and to share reflections, response papers and your biographical sketches with other members of the class. These reflection papers will be graded.

Readings - Required readings will be submitted for each class session.

Consultations with Instructor – In the course of the semester students will have access to the instructor via email, text messaging and long distance (SKYPE). My email address is: grahman@meadville.edu Journaling will be a critical way to provide feedback to instructor. They will not be shared with other students and contents are held confidential between student and instructor.

ON LINE METHODS

1. Brief presentations; discussions
2. Group activities and discussions
3. processing of activities, interactions and learning's through reflection papers and journaling
4. research papers

ASSIGNMENTS

Read each of the required assignments and write a half to one page summary for each text.

MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT: COUNTRY REFLECTION PAPER – Due October 30, 2009 and returned by November 15, 2010

You will be invited to select one of the countries this course focuses on: England, South Africa, India, Japan, Philippines, and Transylvania, and research the history of Unitarianism and then write a seven to ten page paper that includes a bibliography and footnotes. The paper will be posted on moodle. Because we do not want everyone researching the same country some of the selection will be voluntary and some assigned.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: RESEARCH PAPER – Due December 1, 2009 and returned by December 18, 2009

You may wish to continue research on your selected country identified in your Midterm paper. In any event, the final research paper is expected to be a culmination of your readings for this course. It should reflect a more in-depth approach with a focus on a particular individual, historic event and/or theme relevant to your identified country. This paper (no less than ten full pages, no longer than fifteen pages) will be evaluated according to the following standards: definition of the research question/topic; adequacy of research, including use of reference sources; accuracy of citations; clarity of written expression; and indication of engagement with the topic/question.

GRADING POLICY

You may take this course as a Pass/Fail or for a letter grade. Please indicate which you choose when you register for the course. Students taking the course for auditing purposes or for continuing education will not be required to write a final paper. While you will not receive letter grades, you are expected to fully participate. In the event that any of these preconditions are not met satisfactorily, a consultation with the instructor will be initiated. Failure to comply will result in termination from the class.

Final grades will be based on:

1. on-line participation
2. Submission of course reflection papers and journal reflections
3. Research papers

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70 – 79 = C

Final grades will be based on:

On line participation, Journal reflections and Reflection papers – 20 points

Midterm paper – 30 points

Final Research paper – 50 points

Total Points 100 points

Moodle – Moodle will be used in this course to provide the following: online access to the syllabus and other course documents, post class assignments and announcements each week, post reflection papers, conduct class discussions, submit assignments and facilitate emails between students and the instructor. The course website is located at www.meadville.edu. Click on “electronic classroom” at the bottom of the page.

Special Accommodations - Students with disabilities should inform the instructor and Technical Assistance specialist to determine what if any special accommodations are available for the class.

Questions regarding the course should be directed to:

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