
George Mason University

School of Public Policy
3401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22201-4498

Spring Semester 2003

RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATION OF PEACE OPERATIONS (Dimensions to Achieving Peace)

COURSE REGISTRATION DATA

Course Title: RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATION OF PEACE OPERATION

Course #: PUBP 833 00?

Call #: ????? (registration is limited)

Contact: 301/922-5560, iking@gmu.edu

Office hours: by appointment on Tuesday p.m or Wednesday p.m.

Place/Time: Class meets in Old (Red) Building, Arlington, Room ???; 4:30 to 7:00PM on Wednesdays.

Course Description: This course is intense – it is not for the weak of heart. It examines the role of religion in peace operations through reviewing the texts of major faiths, vigorously analyzing ongoing operations where the employment of religion (belief, conviction, creed, culture, faith) are significant factors in intra/international conflicts; discusses relationships between clerics, mullahs, imams, rabbis, holy men (and women), etc. with conflicted parties, local and/or international contributors and military forces engaged in a conflict; and be informed by scholars engaged in broadening dimensions of achieving peaceful resolution to diverse conflicts. This course will be facilitated/managed as a participative seminar; candid and frequent participation is required and expected from each student.

Course Requirements and Weights (100%) as follows: A) Paper proposal followed by a required ten to fifteen-minute presentation to instructor and classmates (10%); this proposal later serves as the basis for the course research paper. B) A noteworthy joint research paper of 45-55 double spaced pages, with references consistent with APA Publication Manual, and edited to publication excellence coupled with a formal presentation to instructor/classmates (50 %). C) Weekly monitoring of an active peace operations mission of UN or non-UN (e.g. EU, OAS, OAU, OSCE, UK, US, etc.) vintage. After the first submission of 1-2 pages, successive reports will be written weekly updates not to exceed one page submitted by e-mail NLT 12-hours before class time to instructor/classmates, presented and defended in class. These reports may be posted on the WWW (15%). D) Completion of all reading assignments w/ fitting written analytical summary of 8-10 pages as chosen by instructor (20%). E) Non-competitive, intellectually stimulating, wise and active participation and comments is expected and required of all students (05%).

Texts: The main faith books used in: Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, and Judaism. Other texts, journal/print articles will be announced and used.

Process: Class times will be used to present overview of topical areas and to highlight additional readings. Full lectures will be the exception rather than the norm, since the class is run as a seminar. The usual class will start w/30 to 60 minutes of student reports on assigned/monitored missions, followed by topical discussion or guest speaker. Emotional arguments distract from meaningful and thoughtfully presented factual ones. Be prepared to support opinions.

Special Activities: On the Monday (May ??, 2003), following the last class date of (May 07, 2003), a field trip will be taken to the United Nations (UN). Selected papers will be proposed for presentation to the UN's Departments of Best Practices and/or Peacekeeping Operations senior executives'. Students may also be given the opportunity to accompany POPP faculty to the Army War College Peacekeeping Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Outcome of course: Participants in this course are expected to learn/understand both the similarities and differences among several faiths: to be more personally grounded and confident in one's approach to and engagement in discussions and formulation of religious policy issues of regional and/or global proportions. This course is not for the timid, and is programmed to challenge the manner in which participants think about particular major issues.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Ivan L. King, Ph.D. is Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor with the Program on Peacekeeping Policy. He holds the BA in Economics from University of New York @ Stony Brook; MA in Management from Central Michigan University; and Ph.D. in Conflict Resolution & Peace from The Union Institute; GS-15, LTC (R) USAR.

Possible Research Topics:

- *Is there a necessary and recognized role for religious dialogue in the Colombian conflict?*
- *Did religious “superstition” play a role in the Myanmar conflict of 1988 and following? RDR!*
- *Monitor, research, discuss, and report (MRDR) on the Arab (Palestinian)/Israeli Conflict. Develop a workable schema for resolution that could be seriously considered for adoption by all parties.*
- *MRD and present necessary and required roles for followers of various factions of Islam in Afghanistan’s forthcoming peace operations to enhance stability & harmony. How should the roles be employed?*
- *Apart from religion, identify and discuss other key essentials that could spark and/or sustain WWII?*
- *MRDR on the Northern Ireland Catholic/Protestant Conflict. RDR and draft a viable resolution schema.*
- *Should the UN retain religious scholars to be preemptively employed in times of certain types of conflicts?*
- *How could one past national or global conflict been altered by invoking firm religious objections?*
- *MRDR on the religious/cultural divide among Catholics, Muslims, and Orthodox Christians in the FR Y.*
- *Will the issues of race, rage (fury, mania), and religion impact the march to future conflicts? If so, how can the foreseeable be avoided or favorably ameliorated among potential adversaries?*
- *MRDR on the topic, “Has the politicization of religion helped/worsened a peace operation in 50 years”?*

Schedule of Classes

First-class meeting	January 22, 03,	Dr. King. Introduction and overview of course, assignments, informational discussion of generally known tenets of some faiths
Second meeting	January 29, 03	King/Speaker TBA Humanitarian aid in man-made disasters. (
Third meeting	February 05, 03	Dr. Abdalla/Ms. S. Ahmad/King. Islam: Relationships with Muslims, non-Muslims and impact on <u>several current</u> Peace Operations.
Fourth meeting	February 12, 03	Mr. Jain/King. Jainism: Relationships and impact on <u>world peace</u> .
Fifth meeting	February 19, 03	Prof. Davis/King: Relationship and integration of religion into the Conceptual Model of Peace Operations.
Sixth meeting	February 26, 03	Ms. Kolondra, JD/JCL/King. The Code of Cannon Law: Potential and implicit impact on <u>International</u> peace operations through the Apostolic See
Seventh meeting	March 05, 03	Madhumita Chattopadhyya, Ed.M. Harvard U/King. Hinduism: Relationships with non-Hindus and impact on <u>regional</u> Peace Operations.
Spring Recess	March 12, 03	No class (use this time for research and reading.)
Eight meeting	March 19, 03	King/ <i>Speaker TBA</i> : Judaism: Relationships with non-Jews and impact on <u>Middle East</u> Peace Operations.
Ninth meeting	March 26, 03	King: Practice Presentation (may be switched with another date)
Tenth meeting	April 02, 03	COL(R) Burr, CHP USAR/King: Christianity: Relationships with non-Christians and impact on Peace Operations in <u>Europe, Africa and elsewhere</u> .
Eleventh meeting	April 09, 03	<i>King</i> / Lodi Gyari Special Assistant to the Dali Lama invited Buddhism: Relationships with non-Buddhists and impact on <u>regional</u> Peace Operations.
Twelfth meeting	April 16, 03	King// <i>Speaker TBA</i> : Chinese Religion (Confucianism): Relationships with non-Confucians and its impact on Peace Operations.
Thirteenth meeting	April 23, 03	King: Student Formal Presentation
Fourteenth meeting	May ??, 03	Davis/King: Trip to UN - Presentation by selected/invited students
Final Paper Due (NLT)	May ??, 03	Have a positive perspective on life.