

INDS 537: The Moral Imagination Peacebuilding & the Arts

Laurel Borisenko

July 29 - August 2, 2019; 1:30 - 4:30pm

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

When watching the nightly news it is difficult not to despair at the toxic local and global violence, and the seemingly impossible task of addressing root causes. Philosopher Bruno Bettelheim has described violence as ‘...the behavior of someone incapable of imagining other solutions to the problem at hand.’ (in Lederach, 2009). It follows that overcoming violence requires imagination, which translates into creative acts. As image-bearers of the Creator God, we have the capacity and calling to search for creative solutions that have power to disrupt the cycle of violence and foster a cycle of healing. This course will explore how communities that have been through violent conflict use arts-based strategies (focusing on theatre) to move toward healing and reconciliation and ultimately to peacebuilding. The instructor will apply these concepts within a biblical perspective, drawing on her field research from three African countries. She will employ an interactive and creative approach, using tools and exercises that can be adapted by participants to their own ministry contexts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Become familiar with arts-based peacebuilding strategies, in particular theatre
2. Reflect on creative responses to violence from a biblical perspective
3. Apply the above tools and analysis to their own ministry context

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 Moral imagination and our creative identity

Day 2 Cycles of violence, cycles of healing

Day 3 Arts-based interventions

Day 4 Healing and forgiveness

Day 5 *Christian response*

REQUIRED TEXTS

Begbie, Jeremy, ed. *Beholding the Glory: Incarnation through the Arts*. London: Baker Academic, 2000. (intro, ch 1 pp 1-25- **30 pages**) [available on Moodle]

Borisenko, Laurel. “Arts-Based Peacebuilding: Functions of Theatre in Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.” PhD Thesis, Univeristy of Amsterdam, 2016

(<http://www.narcis.nl/publication/RecordID/oai:dare.uva.nl:publications%2Fb9ce1224-6ad2-4370-aaed-5372afd63970>) (ch 5, pp 113-152- **39 pages**)

Brand, Hilary, and Adrienne Chaplin. *Art & Soul: Signposts for Christians in the Arts*. 2nd ed. edition. Carlisle, CA: IVP Academic, 2001. Part 2 pp 37-47; Part 4 pp 99-109- **20 pages**) [available on Moodle and on course reserve]. ISBN: 0830826742.

Cohen, Cynthia, Roberto Gutierrez Varea, and Polly O. Walker, eds. 2011. *Acting Together I: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict: Volume I: Resistance and Reconciliation in Regions of Violence*. Oakland, CA: New Village Press. (ch 51, pp 17-42- **26 pages**) [available on Moodle and on course reserve].

Lederach, John Paul. *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. (ch 1 pp 3-5, ch 3 pp 21-29, ch 4 pp 34-40, ch7 66-74, ch 8 pp 70-74, ch 11 pp113-129- **49 pages**) [Available on course reserve]. ISBN: 0195174542. **\$46.99**

———. *Reconcile: Conflict Transformation for Ordinary Christians*. Kitchener, Ontario: Herald Press, 2014. (ch 3 pp 45-59 **15 pages**)

Shank, Michael, and Schirch, Lisa. “Strategic Arts-Based Peacebuilding.” *Peace & Change* 33, 2 2008, 217–42. (**25 pages**) [available on Moodle]

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

