

SAS 501 – Unity in Contemporary Society (3 cr hr/4 ceu)
Mon-Fri – 8-11 a.m. -- May Intersession

Instructor Name	Rev. Karrin Scapple, Ph.D.
Office Hours	Mondays and Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., and by appointment
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Required Texts	Fillmore, Myrtle. (1956). <i>How to let God help you</i> . Unity Village, MO: Unity Books. Rothberg, Donald. (2006). <i>The engaged spiritual life: A Buddhist approach to transforming ourselves and the world</i> . Boston: Beacon Press.
Other Required Reading	Articles on reserve in the Unity Library. Fillmore talks available in e-documents from Karrin.

Course Description

This course challenges students to look at the role that Unity plays in today's world. Major world views and their influence on how individual and spiritual organizations see and respond in the world are explored, as are issues of church and state in the United States. Students will investigate the potential for application of Unity teachings to various contemporary issues and explore the impact this could have on our world.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and articulate their understanding of the broader historical and world view context from which Unity emerged as a foundation for understanding Unity's role in today's world.
2. Compare and contrast Unity spiritual principles with their understanding of an appropriate role for Unity in today's world.
3. Identify whether there are specific social issues about which they are impassioned and formulate strategies to integrate this passion into their ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

- MD-2 Describe and integrate administrative and leadership abilities to create a productive and growing ministry.
- MD-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

- C-2 Describe and integrate administrative and leadership abilities to create a productive and growing ministry.
- C-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

- MA-2 Acquire and demonstrate the skills needed for advanced academic pursuit.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Activity
1a	5 May	Introduction to the Course World Views: Map Projections Actors in the World	Rothberg, Introduction	Students should come to class having familiarized themselves with the major current issues at the state, national and/or international level.
1b	6 May	World Views: Idealism Realism Liberalism	Goldstein/Pevehouse pp 55-59, 99-103 TBD	
1c	7 May	World Views: Feminism Post-modernism	Goldstein/Pevehouse pp 108-119, 121-124 463-474	
1d	8 May	World Views: Peace Studies Dependency	Goldstein/Pevehouse pp 125-133, 463-474	
1e	9 May	Issues, Actors & World Views		Small group analytical presentations
2a	12 May	Church & State: Founding Fathers	Rothberg, ch. 3 Religion in America articles (1:1-4) Declaration of Independence	
2b	13 May	Church & State: 1 st Amendment	Hammar, ch. 11 “A Delicate Balance”	
2c	14 May	Church & State: “Wall of Separation”	Dreisbach article Hamburger article	
2d	15 May	Church & State: Legal issues	Hammar, ch. 14 “Politics and the Pulpit 2008”	Short paper due: “wall of separation”

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Activity
2e	16 May	Church activism Patterns of foreign assistance	Religion in America: Ch 4: 7-8 Goldstein/Pevehouse pp 524-534 Rothberg, ch 1 & ch 4	
3a	19 May	Church activism Unity's history	E. Wilson article M. Fillmore, "The Purpose of Living" & "The Gospel of Uses" C. Fillmore articles (5) available electronically	
3b	20 May	Unity in the Community Guest speaker: Rev. Jane Simmons, Association Spiritual Social Action co-leader	Simmons article Rothberg, ch 2	
3c	21 May	Following the 5 th Principle: What is Unity's Role in the World?	Rothberg, ch. 6, 7 & 9	
3d	22 May	Following the 5 th Principle: What is a ministry's role in the world? What is my role in the world?	Rothberg, ch. 5, 8, 10, conclusion Swanson article	
3e	23 May	Unity in the Community		Small group presentations

Assignments for the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts:

World view analytical presentation: Students will work in small groups to *analyze* a major current issue at the state, national or international level according to the actors involved and their world views. The group will create a handout summarizing their findings, and share their findings to the class in a very short presentation.

Short paper on "wall of separation": Students will write a 5 page paper about the "wall of separation" between church and state. In this paper, students will answer the following questions, using their understanding of the reading material as well as their own opinions:

- Do you believe there is a wall of separation between church and state?
- What are the implications of your answer for your ministry?

5th principle small group presentation: Students will work in the same small groups with the same issue as in the first assignment. Using their understanding of the reading material as well as their own analytical skills, students will give a brief presentation to answer the following questions:

- What is the best approach (or approaches) to help resolve this issue? Why?
- What roles, if any, can the Unity movement, an individual ministry, an individual person take towards this issue?
- Which Unity spiritual principles are most useful in this issue? Why?

Final paper: Each student will select a different issue than they've worked with during the course and complete a 25 page paper that addresses the following things:

- Brief description of the selected issue, using outside sources as research
- Identification of the key actors and their worldviews, using analytical skills
- Discuss relevant church-state issues and analyze their impact on the issue
- Identify Unity spiritual principles that can be used and how/why they can have impact
- What recommendations do you have for addressing this issue --- for the Unity movement, for a ministry, for an individual
- What, if anything, are you willing to commit to right now towards this issue?

Additional information about each of these assignments will be provided when the class meets.

Grading

Assignment	Date Due	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective(s)
World view presentation	9 May	100	#1-2
Wall of separation paper	15 May	100	#1-2
5 th principle presentation	23 May	100	#2-3
Final paper	13 June	300	#1-3

Final Grade Determination:

90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
Below 59%	F

Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

First three assignments are the same as for the M.Div. and M.A. students.

Final paper: Each student will complete a 12-15 page paper that answers the following questions:

- What *types* of issues do you feel are appropriate for the Unity movement to address? Explain your selection and explain why you do not include other issues.

- What role(s) has the Unity movement already taken with regards to these issues and what would you recommend the Unity movement do in the future? (this will involve research in the Unity Archives)
- How can Unity spiritual principles be used? Be specific in your response.
- What role(s) would you recommend *your* ministry take to resolve these issues?
- What, if anything, are you willing to commit to *right now*?

Grading

Assignment	Date Due	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective(s)
World view presentation	9 May	100	#1-2
Wall of separation paper	15 May	100	#1-2
5 th principle presentation	23 May	100	#2-3
Final paper	13 June	300	#1-3

Final Grade Determination

- 90-100% A
- 80-89.9% B
- 70-79.9% C
- 60-69.9% D
- Below 59% F

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it. Controversial issues may be discussed in this course. Students are expected to listen thoughtfully, respond appropriately and respect each other’s right to their opinion.

Late Assignment Policy

Papers and assignments received after the due date will be assessed a penalty up to 2% per day or 10% per week

Attendance Policy

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the handouts, information and/or directions from another student.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An “F” for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student’s permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

Supplemental Readings

A delicate balance: The free exercise clause and the Supreme Court. (2007, October).

Washington, DC: The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Retrieved March 11, 2008, from <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=254>.

Declaration of Independence. (1776, July 4).

Dreisbach, D.L. (2002). *Thomas Jefferson and the wall of separation between church and state.* New York: New York University Press.

Fillmore, C. (n.d.). *A multitude of reforms and reformers.* Unpublished manuscript. Available from Charles S. Fillmore papers, Unity Library & Archives, Unity Village, MO.

---. (1931, Sept 13). *Christian missions.* Unpublished manuscript. Available from Charles S. Fillmore papers, Unity Library & Archives, Unity Village, MO.

---. (1932, Nov 6). *Peace.* Unpublished manuscript. Available from Charles S. Fillmore papers, Unity Library & Archives, Unity Village, MO.

---. (1941, Dec 9). *Unity workers’ attitudes on Japanese crisis.* Unpublished manuscript. Available from Charles S. Fillmore papers, Unity Library & Archives, Unity Village, MO.

---. (1925, Nov 11). *War – peace.* Unpublished manuscript. Available from Charles S. Fillmore papers, Unity Library & Archives, Unity Village, MO.

(Note: all of the Fillmore talks are available in an e-document through Karrin.)

Goldstein, Joshua S. & Pevehouse, Jon C. (2006). *International Relations* (7th ed.). New York: Pearson Longman.

(Note: only selected readings on reserve)

Hamburger, Philip. (2002). *Separation of church and state*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Hammar, Richard R. (2000). *Pastor, church & law* (3rd ed.). Matthews, NC: Christian Ministry Resources.

(Note: only chapters 11 and 14 on reserve)

Politics and the pulpit 2008: A guide to the Internal Revenue Code restrictions on the political activity of religious organizations. (2008, March). Washington, DC: The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Retrieved March 19, 2008, from <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=280>.

Simmons, Jane. (n.d.). *From New Thought to new action: A case for spiritual social action in the New Thought movement*. Unpublished manuscript.

Swanson, Bernadette. (2008, Feb/Mar). "Community outreach: Many shapes and sizes." *Contact* 42:1, pp 12-13.