

This course syllabus may be occasionally updated as we move toward the IEPC.

**UTCWI #THEO 6100; BUSTH # TF 808**  
**Overcoming Violence: An Engagement with the International**  
**Ecumenical Peace Convocation (May 17-25).**  
**A Course for Seminarians Keyed to the IEPC**  
**(Course dates: May 16 – 28, 2011)**

**United Theological College of the West Indies in Association with**  
**Boston University School of Theology, the World Council of Churches and**  
**the Boston Theological Institute**

**Instructors include: Fernando Enns (Hamburg), Glenroy Lalor (Jamaica),**  
**Rodney Petersen (Boston), Marjorie Lewis (Jamaica) in Association with**  
**the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) and other Colleagues and Mentors**

**Details for Participation:**

1. **Completed Application** (due April 1) indicating your “home” seminary or school of theology. See additional details on the “Application Form for Individuals Seeking to be a Part of the Course for Seminarians.”
2. **Letter of Support** from local faculty member or mentor at your “home” school.
3. **Payment** of the following by April 15 in order to guarantee your participation. The total cost for this course is \$725 exclusive of transportation to Jamaica. This fee comprises the following costs:
  - a) Payment of WCC - IEPC Registration Fee at Student Rate (\$150)
  - b) Payment for Food (Breakfast and Dinner) and Accommodations fee (\$550)
  - c) Payment of Materials and Processing Fee (\$25)

Details about how to make payment will be sent to you by email (preferably) or by fax upon receipt of your application. Any other financial arrangements need to be made before April 15 and communicated to Dr. Glenroy Lalor, United Theological College of the West Indies ([glenroy.lalor@utcwi.edu.jm](mailto:glenroy.lalor@utcwi.edu.jm)) or to Dr. Rodney Petersen ([petersen@bostontheological.org](mailto:petersen@bostontheological.org)), Boston Theological Institute.

4. **Accommodations** are at UTC-WI in shared dormitory facilities. Cottages each with a small bed room and shared bath are available. There are some limited singles. Some students may be housed at the adjacent St Michaels Theological Center. Housing is at the discretion of UTCWI.
5. **Communication of your Transportation** details by April 15: Transportation to/from Kingston, Jamaica is the responsibility of participating students (as well as whatever visas or other travel documents may be required). Transportation to/from Manley Airport to UTC-WI will be on a scheduled basis at the beginning and end of the course.
6. **Transcripts of Study** will be issued for 4 credits, free of charge to participating *bona fide* students by United Theological College of the West Indies. Similar credit is also available through Boston University School of Theology (ask about cost). It will be up to participating students to see that this credit is transferable to their home institutions and under what circumstances. Certificates of study will be issued to all.

7. Ask about possible **scholarship assistance**. This is limited and we encourage you to work through your local school, denomination/Church or Council of Churches. Address questions to Dr. Glenroy Lalor or Dr. Rodney Petersen (addresses given above).

## I. Course Objectives

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) is a "harvest festival" celebrating the achievements of the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) which began in 2001, calling attention to the ways communities of faith are implicated in violence as well as to the unique resources with which they are equipped for overcoming violence. It provides a unique opportunity for ecumenical formation even as it encourages individuals and churches to renew their commitment to nonviolence, peace and justice. The objectives of this course are these: 1) to survey areas of violence which confront the churches as provided by the IEPC, 2) to begin to become skilled as peace-makers with respect to IEPC themes, and 3) to foster learning in the context of ecumenical formation.

## II. Course Procedure

This course consists in the first place in taking part in the program elements of the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation, capstone event of the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV), a program initiative of the World Council of Churches. Program elements include: 1) Bible Studies, 2) Plenaries, 3) Seminars, and 4) Workshops.

Additionally, the course is structured so as to provide an integrated approach to the different elements of the IEPC and the DOV process out of which it has come, i.e., to the IEPC themes, DOV resources such as expert consultations, the Declaration on Just Peace and to the Living Letters.

As we begin to see what attendance in the course will be like, there is every expectation that we will divide the group on occasion so as to meet with mentors from different global regions where possible.

## III. Requirements and Grading

### **Grading**

- Participation in Conference and Daily Reflections is expected (30%)
- Two "Secondary" Papers, 5 pp. each (15% each or 30%)
  - 1) Critical Summary of a DOV Expert Panel
  - 2) Critical Summary of a DOV Living Letter
- Final Paper/Project, 15-20 pp. (40%)
 

Paper or Project oriented to one of the 4 thematic trajectories of the IEPC with reference to its critical application in one's home country.
- *All written work is due no later than December 1, 2011 with tuition information communicated to home institutions by mid January 2012.*

The purpose of projecting written work, particularly the final paper or project to the date suggested is for practical reasons given the intensity of the IEPC event and the difficulty of working with resources while in Jamaica. The percentage of the grade dedicated to the final paper/project is to take the learning of the conference and apply it in a weighted fashion to a paper or project in given areas around the world with a desire to focus on the participant's region.

The language of instruction is English and it is expected that all written work will be in English.

#### **IV. Course Schedule**

Monday, 16 May      **Arrival** (Some may need to arrive on 5/15)  
(Dinner for those arriving on 5/15)

Monday, 16 May      **Orientation to UTCWI and Youth Pre-Event**  
Breakfast  
UTC-WI  
Lunch  
Youth Pre-event (scheduled for the 16th and 17<sup>th</sup>) at a location in Kingston, the focus: preparing for the IEPC via the 4 themes (with Youth Desk Secretary)  
Dinner & Free Time

Tuesday, 17 May      **Orientation – Integrate with Youth Pre-Event (IEPC Arrivals)**  
Breakfast  
Orientation to the JustPeace Declaration (track through Convocation)  
Lunch  
Orientation to Local Situations  
Dinner & Free Time: possible meeting with Rasta Group

Wednesday, 18 May      **Plenary: DOV Celebration & Highlights from Streams**  
Breakfast  
Orientations & Exposures to Local Situations and Initiatives  
Lunch  
Opening Plenary  
Break  
*Seminarians Reflection Group at UTC – #1*  
Opening Prayer  
Dinner with Local Guests

Thursday, 19 May      **Plenary: Peace in the Community**

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
 Plenary  
 Lunch & Free Time  
 Sharing and Learning  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #2*  
 Evening Prayer  
 Dinner  
 Special Events

Friday, 20 May      **Plenary: Peace with the Earth**

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
 Plenary  
 Lunch & Free Time  
 Sharing and Learning  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #3*  
 Evening Prayer  
 Dinner  
 Special Events

Saturday, 21 May    **Plenary: Peace in the Marketplace**

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
 Plenary  
 Lunch & Free Time  
 Sharing and Learning  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #4*  
 Evening Prayer  
 Dinner  
 Special Events

Sunday, 22 May      Caribbean Day

Monday, 23 May      **Plenary: Peace Among the Peoples**

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
 Plenary  
 Lunch & Free Time  
 Sharing and Learning  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #5*  
 Evening Prayer  
 Dinner  
 Special Events

Tuesday, 24 May    **Weaving Ceremony and Closing Plenary**

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
 Reports from Sharing and Learning  
 Weaving Ceremony  
 Lunch & Free Time  
 Closing Plenary  
 Sending Prayer  
 Dinner  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #6*

Wednesday, 25 May

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
**Summaries from Expert Consultations**  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #7*

Lunch

**Summaries from Expert Consultations**  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #8*  
 Dinner & Free Time Excursion

Thursday, 26 May

Breakfast  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
**Regional Summaries and Proposals (Drawing from Living Letters)**  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #9*

Lunch

**Regional Summaries and Proposals (Drawing from Living Letters)**  
*Seminarians' Reflection Group at UTC – #10*  
 Celebratory Dinner & Envisioning an Order of Peacemakers

Friday, 27 May

Possible trip to Montego Bay and Mobay Baptist Church (Deacon Sharpe's Rebellion)

Saturday, 28 May

Breakfast  
 Departure

## V. Required Readings (available on the web)

### A. General Reading Related to the Decade to Overcome Violence

1. Diana Mavunduse and Simon Oxley, *Why Violence? Why Not Peace?* (WCC, 2003). A study guide to help individuals and groups in the churches to reflect and act in the Decade to Overcome Violence oriented around: 1) the spirit and logic of violence, 2) the use, abuse and misuse of power, 3) the issues of justice, and 4) religious identity and plurality.  
<http://www2.wcc-coe.org/dov.nsf/51bb65526e8149bac1256c1c003547c6/42084945a42e423bc1256c450040a1f3?OpenDocument>
2. Geiko Müller-Fahrenheit, "International Ecumenical Peace Convocation – Its Relevance for Theological Education in the 21st. Century," *BTI Magazine*, vol. 10, no. 2 (Spring 2011): [www.bostontheological.org](http://www.bostontheological.org)
3. Simon Oxley, *Telling the Truth about Ourselves and Our World* (WCC, 2009) A study guide to help individuals and churches continue to reflect and act together as the 2001-2010 Decade to Overcome Violence – Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace is celebrated at the (May 17-25, 2011, Kingston, Jamaica).  
[http://www.overcomingviolence.org/fileadmin/dov/files/iepc/resources/TellingTheTruth\\_v100115.pdf](http://www.overcomingviolence.org/fileadmin/dov/files/iepc/resources/TellingTheTruth_v100115.pdf)
4. Rodney Petersen and Marian Simion, eds., *Overcoming Violence: Religion, Conflict and Peace-building* (Newton: Boston Theological Institute, 2010): [www.bostontheological.org](http://www.bostontheological.org)

### B. Specific DOV documents that will be used in our deliberations in Jamaica:

1. An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace, World Council of Churches, 2011 on-line at [www.oikumene.org](http://www.oikumene.org) from 3/11.
2. Just Peace Companion, WCC 2011. on-line at [www.oikumene.org](http://www.oikumene.org) from 3/11.
3. Ecumenical Review, 4/11 - whole issue is on Just Peace
4. Living Letters Report: <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/peace-convocation/preparatory-process/living-letters-visits.html>
5. Expert Consultations: <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/peace-convocation/expert-consultations/past-events.html>

6. Decade to Overcome Violence - Final Report, from 3/11

C. Additional Titles in process in relation to the four IEPC trajectories.

## **VI. Additional Bibliography**

1. Glen H. Stassen, *Just Peacemaking: The New Paradigm for the Ethics of Peace and War* (Pilgrim Press, 2008).
2. Glen H. Stassen and Rodney Petersen, eds., *Formation for Just Peacemaking* (Wipf and Stock, 2011).

## **VII. Additional Mentors Include:**

- Fr. Emmanuel Clapsis, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Boston
- Marsha Snulligan-Haney, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta
- Fr. Raymond Helmick, SJ, Boston College, Boston
- Thomas Porter, JD, Boston University School of Theology, Boston

Additional Names to be added....