RECU 70970  
Special Topics in Religion and Culture:  
_Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Moral Injury and Soul Repair_  
M-F 9-5pm | Moore 201  
January 2014  
Dr. Coleman Baker | Dr. Rita Brock

Prerequisites: CHTH 60003 or HEBI 60003 or NEW 60003

Course Description:  
This course will explore the new concept of moral injury, especially in veterans of war, but also in other forms of socially sanctioned violence and other occupational contexts. We will explore its causes, pathways to recovery, the role of congregations, and theological and biblical ways to understand it. Students will be encouraged to consider practical applications of course ideas for their own vocational interests and communities.

Common Required Resources:  
10. Aristotle Papnikalaou, "The Aesthetics of War: The Undoing and Redoing of Virtue"

Recommended Readings:  

Additional readings will be made available by the instructors.

Grading Procedures:  
- Attendance & Participation (includes Final Evaluation & Critical Response Papers): 50%  
- Presentation: 20%  
- Final Project: Paper, Sermon, Adult Ed Project, etc.: 30%
Requirements:
*Attendance & Participation* – Attendance and active, informed participation at all class meetings.
*Daily Critical Reflection Papers* – Each night, you should write a one-page critical reflection paper on the readings.
*Presentation* – The presentation will be discussed in class.
*Final Project* – A sermon, adult education lesson/curriculum, research paper, or another major project, in consultation with the instructors, is due by 5pm April 21. Consult with us during the breaks to discuss possibilities.
*Final Evaluation* – On the last day of our class meeting, we will have an oral final evaluation.

Attendance Policy:
Since this is a one week intensive course, it is very important that you are present for all class meetings.

Inclusion Statement:
Brite Divinity School values people of all cultures, nationalities, ethnicities, races, and religions, with regard to characteristics such as sex, gender, sexual identities, social class, age, and differing abilities. We are committed to promoting a diverse and just environment, in which language and practices support the achievement of inclusion. Brite seeks to remove all barriers to the maintenance and aspirations of its Mission Statement and Non-Discrimination Statement.

Inclusive Language Statement:
Brite Divinity School promotes inclusive language. This includes such matters as language about God, humanity, cultures, nationalities, ethnicities, races, and religions, with regard to characteristics such as sex, gender, sexual identities, social class, age, and differing abilities. We are committed to promoting a diverse and just environment for all, in which language and practices encourage inclusion. To this end, Brite will maintain and update as necessary a webpage of resources for current best practices of inclusive language.

Statement on Disability Services:
Brite Divinity School complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact TCU’s Coordinator, Student Disabilities Services, located in Sadler Hall 1010. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from Student Disabilities Services, Sadler Hall 1010, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at 817-257-6567.

Academic Misconduct (Sec. 5.14 of the Student Handbook):
Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct. The procedures used to resolve suspected acts of academic misconduct are available in the Student Handbook and the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Specific examples from the handbook can be included.

Netiquette: CommunicationCourtesy Code:
All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. If I deem any of them to be inappropriate or
offensive, I will forward the message to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and appropriate action will be taken, not excluding expulsion from the course.

TCU Campus Resources for Students:
Many resources exist on the TCU campus that may be helpful to students: Mary Couts Burnett Library (817-257-7117); Student Disabilities Services (817-257-6567, Sadler Hall 1010); the William L. Adams Writing Center (817-257-7221, Reed Hall 419; and 817-257-6520, Library Annex); Student Development Services (817-257-7855, Brown Lupton University Union 2003); and The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (817-257-7830, Jarvis Hall First Floor).

Email Notification:
Only the official Brite student email address will be used for all course notification. It is your responsibility to check your email on a regular basis.

Reading Schedule:

Read before first day of class:
• Introduction and chapters 1-4 of Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War
• Kent Drescher, et al, "Morality and Moral Injury: Insights from Theology and Health Science" Reflective Practice (This entire issue is on moral injury, so feel free to read other articles that interest you) http://journals.sfu.ca/rpfs/index.php/rpfs/issue/current

For Tuesday:
• Aristotle Papnikalaou, "The Aesthetics of War: The Undoing and Redoing of Virtue"
• Jonathan Shay, Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character
• Find and read biblical texts that resonate with moral injury

For Wednesday:
• Jessica Goodell with John Hearn, Shade it Black: Death and After in Iraq.

For Thursday:
• Sippola, Tubesing, and Blumenshine, Welcome Them Home, Help Them Heal: Pastoral Care and Ministry with Service Members Returning from War
• Chapter 5 of Soul Repair

For Friday:
• Review additional reading