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Course Description:
This course explores the highly ambiguous relationship between religious faith and violence. It provides an overview of situations in modern history that are examples of this ambiguous relationship, including terrorism and the responses it provokes. Students are exposed to authors who seek to comprehend violent behavior using explanatory theories. The goal is to allow students in the course to develop an understanding of various dimensions (ethical, social, psychological, political, and theological) of the relationship between religious faith and intentional actions that result in ending human lives.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will be able to express informed views on the relationship between religious faith and violent behavior in the contemporary world.
2. Students will be able to articulate an understanding of violent behavior that is not only psychological or sociological, but also theological.
3. Students will be able to lead religious communities in reflection on these important issues in social ethics and public theology.

Instructional Methods:
Online and in-person discussion of assigned texts.

Texts:


There will be additional readings assigned by the instructor during the semester, which will present a variety of authors. Students must have the ability to check their TCU email account and do so regularly, because I will communicate with you in that way regarding reading assignments and other course matters.
65033 Grading Procedures:
1. Online class participation, 70%
2. Final paper (10-12 pp.*), 30%

85033 Grading Procedures
1. Online class participation, 60%
2. A sermon, 8-10 pages, relating to the course topic, 20%
3. The final paper for D.Min. students will be 10-15 pages*, on a topic approved by the instructor, 20%

* double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt preferred, remember to include your name and page numbers