

CANADIAN SCHOOL OF PEACEBUILDING  
CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

June 7-18, 2021

**BTS/PCTS/POLS-3895C Refugees and Displacement: Learning to Extend Hospitality**  
**Undergraduate Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Mary Jo Leddy

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Co-Instructor: Dan Epp-Tiessen

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Lecture times: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (Winnipeg time)

Office hours: 4:00- 5:30 p.m. or by appointment

Last date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty: **July 15, 2021**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Refugees are a controversial topic of discussion in Canada today. All too often, they are treated as nameless statistics or caricatures in the occasional story that flares across the front pages of newspapers. Millions of people around the world have been forced from their homes by interlinked factors including persecution, armed conflict, natural disasters, development projects and socio-economic deprivation. This course explores the idea that the presence of refugees challenges us to re-discover what it means to be neighbours through attention to cultivating the disciplines of “radical gratitude” and hospitality. Participants will have opportunity to engage in case studies, group discussions, and think through policy ideas for enhancing community resiliency.

### **OBJECTIVES**

**After successful completion of this course students should have: A deeper understanding of thinking as a way of welcoming the world. A greater sense of the joy and challenge of hospitality.**

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

**It is the participant’s responsibility to order texts ahead of time, whether online, as e-books, or from local book-sellers.**

Mary Jo Leddy. *Radical Gratitude*. MaryKnoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.

—. *The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home*. MaryKnoll, NY: Orbis, 2011.

## TEACHING APPROACH

In addition to lectures, there will be opportunity for interactive exercises, exploring case studies with guests, student interaction and small group projects. Students will be expected to keep up with readings and actively engage in class activities.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES (for credit)

The following are the general outlines of requirements for those taking the class for credit. Others are encouraged to read as much as possible, however, in order to receive maximum benefit from the course.

Students are encouraged to speak/communicate with the professor before they do a final draft of the paper. This allows the professor to give feedback before the assignment instead of after. Assignments are due as scheduled. Assignments that are late will be deducted 10% of the assignment value unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor (via email to Mary Jo Leddy, cc Dan Epp-Tiessen).

## ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	VALUE
1. "Where I have experienced hospitality"	June 5	10%
2. A Reflection on: The Summons of the Other	June 11	30%
3. A Reflection on "The Samaritan Church"	June 27	50%
4. Self-Evaluation	June 18	10%

## ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

*In all assignments, please take up the challenge of "shorter is more demanding". Students are strongly encouraged to submit an outline of the paper BEFORE you do the final draft.*

### 1. "Where I have experienced hospitality"

Due: June 5 (*Optional Outline due June 1, to Mary Jo Leddy, cc Dan Epp-Tiessen*)

Length: 2 pages

Value: 10%

Description: Reflect on your own experience of hospitality. This reflection might come from a time in a refugee camp, at a church, or some other setting. Reflect on where you have been treated in a hospitable way, or when you have seen others treated this way. This articulation of your experience of hospitality is meant to help the instructor orient class work. As such, the form this reflection can take is left open, and it is due prior to the first day of classes.

Submission: Email your assignment to Mary Jo Leddy, cc Dan Epp-Tiessen.

### 2. A Reflection on "The Summons," chapter 1 of *The Other Face of God*

Due: June 11 (*Optional Outline due June 7; email to Mary Jo Leddy, cc Dan Epp-Tiessen*)

Length: 6-8 pages;

Value: 30%

Description: Write a reflection on this section of *The Other Face of God* in terms of the concept or significance of the title, “The Summons.” Students should be preparing this assignment before the start of classes.

Submission: Upload final assignment draft to course Moodle page.

### **3. A Reflection on “The Samaritan Church,” chapter 7 of *The Other Face of God***

Due: June 27 (*Optional Outline due June 23; email to Mary Jo Leddy, cc Dan Epp-Tiessen*)

Length: 6-8 pages

Value: 50%

Description: Write a reflection on this section of *The Other Face of God* in a way that allows you to summarize your thinking about the course. You should focus your reflections especially upon the theological themes and materials that emerge in the latter part of the course.

Submission: Upload final assignment draft to course Moodle page.

### **4. Self – Evaluation**

Due: June 18

Length: one page

Value: 10%

Description: Students will be given a list of questions for self-reflection and response.

Submission: Upload final assignment draft to course Moodle page.

## **STYLISTIC REQUIREMENTS**

CMU has adopted the following as its standard guide for all academic writing:

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*. Sixth edition. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012.

The final paper should follow an accepted academic format for citations, bibliography, etc. (e.g. APA, Chicago, MLA). You may choose the format but whichever you use, be sure to use it properly and consistently.

## **OTHER REQUIRMENTS**

*Academic Integrity*—All material referred to in any assignment MUST be appropriately referenced.

Plagiarism is a serious matter. Students should be aware of CMU Academic Policies, particularly those regarding academic misconduct (plagiarism and cheating), which apply to all University courses. These are detailed on CMU’s website (<http://www.cmu.ca/students.php?s=registrar&p=policies>) and in the CMU Calendar. If you still have questions about appropriate referencing and what plagiarism is, a useful tutorial can be found here: <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>.

*Attendance*—In order to maximize the potential of the educational process, and given the intensive nature of CSOP courses, it is necessary that each student attend all classes. On occasion, a student may need to

miss some class time. One day of class (3 total hours) is the maximum allowable absence, and any student missing more than this may be barred from further class attendance. In such cases the student is responsible to advise the instructor before the class occurs. It is the responsibility of the student to become familiar with all academic policies, including those pertaining to attendance, academic misconduct, and grading.

## EVALUATION

Good communication skills are essential for justice and peacebuilding work. Thus, in general, instructors should look for quality writing that adheres to the assignment guidelines, expresses ideas clearly, concisely, and persuasively, and demonstrates engagement with readings and class sessions. All written work should be well informed, well organized and well documented.

Students to take up any concerns or questions regarding grades first with the instructor. If this does not produce a satisfactory result, the student should submit a written appeal to the Registrar ([spenner@cmu.ca](mailto:spenner@cmu.ca)).

**NOTE:** Grades are not final until vetted and approved by the Dean's Office.

For more information on CMU policies regarding grades, academic misconduct, appeals, and other matters, please see the *CMU Student Handbook*.

## LETTER GRADE/PERCENTAGE SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Descriptor
A+	95-100	4.5	Exceptional
A	88-94	4	Excellent
B+	81-87	3.5	Very Good
B	74-80	3	Good
C+	67-73	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60-66	2	Adequate
D	50-59	1	Marginal
F	0-49	0	Failure

## EXTENSIONS

The last date within the semester an instructor can grant as an extension is AUG 15. If a student is unable to complete the requirements of a course by this date, the student must submit a written appeal for an "incomplete" to the Registrar's office ([spenner@cmu.ca](mailto:spenner@cmu.ca)). The student should seek the instructor's support for the appeal and must submit it by AUG 16.

If the student's appeal is granted, the instructor will enter a grade of I (for incomplete) accompanied by a temporary grade (which is based on completed work and assigns a value of zero for uncompleted work). Instructor grades are due by AUG 21. If the student completes the remaining work within the extension period, the grade will be recalculated and the incomplete status will be removed. If the student does not

complete the work within the extension period, the incomplete status will be removed and the provisional grade entered alongside the “incomplete” will become the final grade. The maximum extension for courses ending in August is DEC 1.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

CMU strives to provide a fair and supportive learning environment for academically qualified students with disabilities. If you are eligible for these services or have questions about becoming eligible, please contact Sandra Loeppky, Coordinator of Accessibility Programs at sloeppky@cmu.ca or 204.487.3300 x.340.

In recognition of individuals with asthma, allergies and severe environmental/chemical sensitivities, CMU is striving to become a scent-free campus. Students, staff and guests are asked to refrain from wearing fragrances and scented personal care products at CMU. This includes perfumes, colognes, aftershave and scented hair products. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated by those affected.

## **SCHEDULE, TOPICS & READINGS**

**This schedule, along with assigned readings, may be adjusted slightly in response to pace of discussion, availability of guests, and other scheduling issues. The instructor will provide advance notice of any changes.**

### **1. Monday June 7: Introduction: Being Called**

*Class activity:* UNHCR videos from You Tube

### **2. Tuesday June 8**

*Readings:* “The Summons,” chapter 1 of *The Other Face of God (TOFG)* ch 1

*Class Activity:* Listening to Teresita Desi and Hidat Mosa

### **3. Wednesday June 9**

*Readings:* “Perpetual Dissatisfaction” and “Creative Power,” chapters 2 and 4 of *Radical Gratitude*

### **4. Thursday June 10**

*Readings:* “The Concentrated Life,” chapter 3 of *TOFG*

### **5. Friday June 11**

*Readings:* Leddy, “Where Deep Joy Meets the Deep Suffering of the World,” *New Theology Review*, May 2010). Article to be posted on Moodle

*Class Activity:* Dialogue with Maran Nagarasa and his daughter Dishalay

**6. Monday June 14**

*Readings:* “The God of Small Neighbourhoods,” chapter 4 of *TOFG*; “The Ballet of the Street” by Jane Jacobs and poems by Wendell Berry to be posted on Moodle.

**7. Tuesday June 15**

*Readings:* “Systems without a Face; Files without a Name,” chapter 5 of *TOFG*

*Class Activity:* The Face of the Franco Family

**8. Wednesday June 16**

*Readings:* “The In-Between Christ,” chapter 6 of *TOFG*

**9. Thursday June 17**

*Readings:* “The Samaritan Church,” chapter 7 of *TOFG*; and “The Authority of those who Suffer,”  
Readings from JB Metz, Gutierrez, Sobrino to be posted on Moodle

**10. Friday June 18**

*Class Activity:* Small Groups and Concluding Reflections

**SCHEDULE NOTES**

July 15	The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty.
Aug 15	Instructors cannot grant extensions past this date.
Aug 16	The last day for students to appeal in writing to the Registrar’s office for extensions past Aug 15.
Aug 21	Last day for instructors to submit grades.