



Summer 2021 Special Topics Course

Humanities 380 | A Holy Hatred? Use & Misuse of the Bible in Ideologically & Racially Fraught Times

Dr. David Creech (dcreech@cord.edu)

- ◆ 4 Credits
- ◆ May 10 through June 4
- ◆ Primarily asynchronous with synchronous meetings on Mondays & Fridays
- ◆ Monday, Wednesday & Friday
- ◆ 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

2020 brought renewed focus on pervasive racial injustice and longstanding ideological divides. These tensions have manifested in violent and destructive behavior. Activists have appealed to Biblical texts and values to advocate for quite different positions. Black activists cry for justice and liberation; white nationalists quote scripture and erect crosses. This course will explore how Christian texts, tradition, and imagery are used and misused in this public discourse. The approach will be threefold. First, we will examine how texts are read and interpreted. The role of the reader in making meaning will be demonstrated by engaging diverse interpreters' approaches to biblical texts. Second, we will explore how ethnic and ideological difference are addressed in key biblical texts. In this section of the course, the historical context of these texts will be central. Finally, in the third section of the course, we will examine and evaluate the contemporary movements and their appeals to religious texts, tradition, and imagery. As a result of this course, students will have tools to critically engage both the public discourse as well as media analysis of said discourse.

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