### New York University

### Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

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### Multifaith Leadership in the 21st Century

#### UPADM-GP 254

### Fall 2024

Tuesdays, 2:00pm-4:30pm

### 194 Mercer St Room 208

Professors Chelsea Garbell & Brandon Dunkley

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### Office Hours:

Professor Garbell: Mondays 1-2pm, and by appointment

### Professor Dunkley: Thursdays 10am-11am [on Zoom](https://nyu.zoom.us/j/97583003628), and by appointment

### Course Description and Objectives:

In the context of an increasingly polarized American society, this course seeks to train students to mobilize diverse faith communities together for the greater good. Unleashing the power of their own story, students will articulate their values and explore the ways it can be shared. The course will draw on case studies from historical and contemporary faith leaders who have achieved success in creating sustainable change, as well as interrogating relevant current affairs as they arise. Students will learn to recognize how stories are used to motivate action, to recognize the ways that race, power and privilege play a role in elevating and downplaying stories and to identify the role values play in motivating action.

**Shared Agreements:** We approach each class, student, and topic as an invitation to be present with candor, curiosity, compassion, and care. Please join us in this invitation.

**Course Requirements**

***Required texts***

Patel, E. (2016). *Interfaith leadership: A Primer*. Beacon Press.

Peace, J. H., Rose, O. N., & Mobley, G. (Eds.). (2014). *My neighbor’s faith: Stories of*

*interreligious encounter, growth, and transformation*. Orbis Books.

All other readings will be listed in Resources on Brightspace or sent via email. Our class discussions will be based on the assigned readings and will be much richer if you come prepared.

***Weekly Readings & Responses***

Each week students will post a response to the readings and a question for further consideration in the Discussion Section of Brightspace.

***Assignments***

* **About Me**
  + Submit a paragraph sharing a bit about yourself or anything you’d like me to know.
* **Paper 1: Story of Faith**
  + To be discussed in class. 3-4 pages in length.
* **Paper 2: Spiritual Ethnography** 
  + To be discussed in class. 3-4 pages in length.
* **Paper 3: Interfaith Theology/Ethic** 
  + To be discussed in class. 3-4 pages in length.
* **Final Presentation: Public Narrative**
  + To be discussed in class. 5 minute presentation.

**Assignments and Grading**

Attendance, Participation, Discussion Facilitation 30%

Paper 1 20%

Paper 2 20%

Paper 3 20%

Final Presentation 10%

**Attendance Policy**

It is of utmost importance that students attend class consistently, and this is reflected in the grading rubric. If you need to miss class for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will discuss reasonable accommodations. Regular unexcused absences will have an impact on your final grade.

**AI Policy**

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT or DALL-E 2) for this course is allowed for specific assignments only when determined to be in support of the course learning goals. Assignments in which AI tools are permitted will be clearly identified by the instructors and noted in the assignment directions. You are not required to use generative AI tools, but if you choose to use them for any part of the assignment (from brainstorming to text editing), you must use proper attribution. Failure to properly acknowledge generative AI tools will be considered plagiarism.

## The Moses Center for Student Accessibility

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [The Moses Center for Student Accessibility (CSA)](https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSA at (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

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## NYU’s [Policy on Academic Accommodations for Religious Holidays and Observances](https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html)

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states that students may, without penalty, excuse themselves from academic obligations and otherwise receive a reasonable accommodation when required for religious and spiritual holidays and observances. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays and/or observances that might coincide with exams, assignments, or class times to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.

**Wellness Resources:**

As a University student, you may experience a range of issues that can interfere with your

ability to perform academically or impact your daily functioning, such as heightened stress,

anxiety, difficulty concentrating, sleep disturbance, strained relationships, grief and loss,

personal struggles. If you have any well-being or mental health concerns please utilize the Wellness Exchange. You can call the 24-hour hotline at **(212) 443-9999**, chat via the Wellness Exchange app anytime, [make an appointment](https://www.nyu.edu/content/nyu/en/students/health-and-wellness/services/counseling-services/counseling.html), or arrange a [same-day Urgent Counseling session](https://www.nyu.edu/content/nyu/en/students/health-and-wellness/services/counseling-services/counseling/urgent-counseling.html) to speak with a certified counselor about any day-to-day challenges or health concerns, including medical issues, stress, depression, sexual assault, anxiety, alcohol or drug dependence, and eating disorders. Furthermore, please approach me if you feel comfortable doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources or accommodations that I can.

**Course Outline**:

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| **Date** | **Class Topic** |  | **Readings (Due by corresponding class)** |
| 9/3 | Introduction |  | * Review of Syllabus * [What Leaders Really Do](https://hbr.org/2001/12/what-leaders-really-do) |
| 9/10 | Narrative Identity |  | * *Interfaith Leadership*, pp.1-37 * [Paul Ricoeur on Refigurative Reading and Narrative Identity](https://www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/symposium/files/original/8ce9575105e6c32982faef20f10e07d4.PDF) |
| 9/17 | Story of Self Workshop |  | * Marshall Ganz, Why Stories Matter: The Art and Craft of Social Change (2009) * Marshall Ganz, [What Is Public Narrative: Self, Us & Now](https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/30760283/Public-Narrative-Worksheet-Fall-2013-.pdf) (2009) * Marshall Ganz, [Public Narrative, Collective Action, and Power](https://marshallganz.usmblogs.com/files/2012/08/Public-Narrative-Collective-Action-and-Power.pdf) |
| 9/24 | The Danger of a Single Story |  | * Robert P. Jones, [*The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* (2023), Prologue: Before America](https://web-p-ebscohost-com.proxy.library.nyu.edu/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook?sid=77d88dce-4863-431a-a497-22171f82d294%40redis&vid=0&format=EK) * *My Neighbor’s Faith*, pp. 3-41 * Simran Jeet Singh, *The Light We Giv*e (2023), pp. xi-68   <https://thedecisionlab.com/biases> |
| 10/1 | What is Pluralism? |  | * Robert Putnam, [E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century](https://www.puttingourdifferencestowork.com/pdf/j.1467-9477.2007.00176%20Putnam%20Diversity.pdf) (2007) * Abraham Joshua Heschel, [No Religion is an Island](https://utsnyc.edu/wp-content/uploads/Heschels-No-Religion-is-an-Island.pdf) (1966) * *Interfaith Leadership* pp.41-66 * [Beloved Community](https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/)   **Due: Story of Faith** |
| 10/8 | The Nature of Prejudice |  | * [Intergroup Contact Theory: Past, Present, and Future](https://tedcantle.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/092-Intergroup-contact-theory-explained-Everett-J-2013.pdf) * *My Neighbor’s Faith*, pp. 43-77 * Case Studies |
| 10/22 | What is Faith? |  | * *Interfaith Leadership* pp.67-86 * *My Neighbor’s Faith,* pp. 79-124 * Ariel Ennis, *Teaching Religious Literacy (2017),* Ch. 1-2 |
| 10/29 | Interfaith Theologies |  | * *Interfaith Leadership* pp.109-132 * bell hooks, *All About Love* (1999), pp.71-83 * Shawn Copeland (2022) [#BlackLivesMatter As Public Theology](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pylZZpLVRr8) * [Identifying a Theology or Ethic of Interfaith Cooperation](https://www.interfaithamerica.org/resources/identifying-theology-or-ethic/) |
| 11/5 | Story of Us |  | * [If faith leaders want to reach Gen Z, meet them in the streets](https://religionnews.com/2021/10/21/if-faith-leaders-want-to-reach-gen-z-meet-them-in-the-streets/) * [What Churches Offer That ‘Nones’ Still Long For](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/28/opinion/religion-affiliation-community.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare) * *My Neighbor’s Faith*, pp. 125-162   Guest Speaker: Chris Woods, Senior Director of Inclusive Policy and Director of the NYU LGBTQ+ Center  **Due: Spiritual Ethnography 11/5** |
| 11/12 | Ritual & Leadership |  | * Casper ter Kuile, *The Power of Ritual* (2021),Introduction * *My Neighbor’s Faith*, pp. 163-203 |
| 11/19 | What is your Work? |  | * [Social Change Ecosystem](https://buildingmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ecosystem-Guide-April-2022.pdf) * *My Neighbor’s Faith,* pp. 205-240 |
| 11/26 | Community Organizing as Multifaith Leadership |  | * *Interfaith Leadership* 135-170 * *My Neighbor’s Faith,* pp. 241-266 * Martin Luther King, Jr., [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](https://www.csuchico.edu/iege/_assets/documents/susi-letter-from-birmingham-jail.pdf) * **Due: Interfaith Theology/Ethic** |
| 12/3 | Story of Now |  | Final Presentations |
| 12/10 | Closing |  | **Final Presentations** |