

## **2018-2019 Center Seminar for Graduate Students**

The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College invites applications from graduate students interested in the intersection of interfaith dialogue and social or political justice. The Center seeks participants doing research in the Humanities (for instance, in Classical Studies, Romance languages, English, German, History, Philosophy, Theology, and Religion), in the Social Sciences (for instance, in Economics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology), and from the professional schools (for instance, Education, Ministry, Rabbinics, and Social Work.).

### **Altruism (Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Perspectives) and Our Responsibility for the Other: An Interreligious and Inter-disciplinary Investigation**

The seminar fosters interreligious and interdisciplinary dialogue among graduate students interested in the subject of altruism as a moral ideal and also as a moral challenge, or a perplexing puzzle that the three Abrahamic (Jewish, Christian, and Islamic) faiths have addressed, each in its own way. It proceeds with a presumption of difference and inquires less as to the ways in which we are similar, and more as to the ways in which we can, despite our sometimes incongruent loyalties, theorize those duties which we bear toward one another nonetheless. In this way, it aims to raise questions such as “who is my neighbor?” “does my responsibility to the stranger have limits?” and “if so, what are they?” More profoundly, the seminar seeks to examine ways in which implicit norms of practice implied by the answers which each tradition offers to such questions are counterbalanced by super-normative moral ideals that call upon the faithful to do what cannot be demanded of them.

### **Seminar participation involves the following benefits:**

- The opportunity to engage with students of diverse religious and disciplinary backgrounds and share your ideas in a supportive and collaborative environment.
- The opportunity to become more intimately involved with the work of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.
- The opportunity to share your ideas with the broader campus community.
- An annual stipend of \$1,000 (\$100/session)

### **Responsibilities of seminar participants include a commitment to:**

- Attending monthly seminar meetings during the 2018-19 academic year.
- Contributing to an ongoing discussion about the seminar’s activities and projects.
- Attending the events organized by the Center during the 2018-19 academic year.
- Contributing, either individually or in partnership with others (seminar members or otherwise), a scholarly paper involving the subject matter explored within the seminar over the course of the 2018-19 academic year.
- Presenting this paper to the campus community at a year-end colloquium.

## **Application Procedure**

**Applicants should submit to [cjlearning@bc.edu](mailto:cjlearning@bc.edu) the following materials:**

- A brief statement of interest including how the applicant feels he or she can contribute to the work of the seminar.
- An updated resume or curriculum vitae.
- University or seminary transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
- A writing sample no longer than 20 pages.

**Applicants should be aware:**

- The success of this seminar requires that:
  - All three Abrahamic faiths be represented (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam)
  - Material not necessarily available in English be made accessible to participants.
- This means that selection preferences can be thoroughly decoupled neither from the religious or cultural background of the applicant nor from his or her linguistic skill set (e.g. knowledge of Latin, Romance languages, German, Hebrew, Arabic, Farsi, etc.).
- Though students from nearby institutions are encouraged to apply, preference will be given to Boston College students.
- Ph.D. students will also be given preference.

**Deadline:**

Application materials should be submitted to [cjlearning@bc.edu](mailto:cjlearning@bc.edu) by August 15, 2018.

**Questions may be addressed to one of the seminar leaders:**

Garrett Kiriakos-Fugate ([gnf@bu.edu](mailto:gnf@bu.edu))

Hans Harmakaputra ([harmakap@bc.edu](mailto:harmakap@bc.edu))

David Maayan ([dmaayan7@gmail.com](mailto:dmaayan7@gmail.com))