

Religious Pluralism in Tennessee  
Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Tennessee Board of Regents

Creating a More Perfect Union in the Bible Belt: Building Community and Cultural  
Understanding through the Study of Religion and Civil Society

Opening Workshop July 13-17, 2015

Monday, July 13, 2015

8:30 a.m., MTSU Student Union Building 224

**Coffee and Continental Breakfast**, compliments of the MTSU University Provost  
MTSU Welcome by Dr. Peter Cunningham, Office of the University Provost, and Dr.  
Antoinette van Zelm, Center for Historic Preservation

**Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping**

9:30-11:30 a.m.

**History: National Historic Context:** The Founding Fathers, the First Amendment, and  
the Starting Point for U.S. Discussions of Religion and Politics

**Distinguished Humanities Scholar Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp, Ph.D.**

Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, John C. Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis

**Link to PowerPoint Presentation**

Provided Faculty Readings:

- Charles L. Cohen and Ronald L. Numbers, eds., *Gods in America: Religious Pluralism in the United States* (Oxford U Press, 2013), 1-18. —Available online on password-protected site—
- Frank Lambert, *Religion in American Politics: A Short History* (Princeton University Press, 2010).

For Use in General Education Classrooms:

- Charles C. Haynes, Religion in American History: What to Teach and How, at <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/madison/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/religioninamericanhistory.pdf> (contains documents, study questions, and advice on how to use these with students).
- George Washington, letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, Aug. 18, 1790, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-06-02-0135>.
- Thomas Jefferson, Letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, Jan. 1, 1802, <http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9806/danpre.html>.

Additional Sources:

- Randall Balmer, *First Freedom: The Fight for Religious Freedom* (Hendersonville, TN: Covenant Communications, 2012); *The Making of Evangelicalism: From Revivalism to Politics and Beyond* (Baylor U Press, 2010) ; *Religion in Twentieth Century America* (Oxford University Press, 2001) ††; *Blessed Assurance: A History of Evangelicalism in America* (Beacon Press, 1999). ††
- Sarah Barringer Gordon, *The Spirit of the Law: Religious Voices and the Constitution in Modern America* (Harvard U Press, 2010) ††.
- Chris Beneke, *Beyond Toleration: The Religious Origins of American Pluralism* (Oxford: Oxford U Press, 2006). [Dissertation available through Walker Library JSTOR.]
- Isaac Kramnick and R. Laurence Moore, *The Godless Constitution: A Moral Defense of the Secular State*, updated edition (W.W. Norton, 2005), pp. 26-45. [eBook.]
- David Sehat, *The Myth of American Religious Freedom* (Oxford U Press, 2011), pp. 1-69.
- Denise A. Spellberg, *Jefferson's Qu'ran: Islam and the Founders* (New York: Random House, 2013).

Digital Resources:

- On Common Ground, The Pluralism Project, Harvard University, [www.pluralism.org/ocg/](http://www.pluralism.org/ocg/). [The About page provides a good overview of all the resources throughout the website: <http://www.pluralism.org/ocg/about/>.]
- Divining America, Religion in American History, National Humanities Center, <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/divam.htm>.
- PBS documentary, The First Freedom (2012), <http://video.pbs.org/video/2291371326/>.
- Religion and the Constitution in the U.S., John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, <http://rap.wustl.edu/>.

11:45-12:45 p.m., Student Union Building 224

**Box Lunch**, compliments of the MTSU Department of History, Dr. James M. Beeby, Chair

1:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Tour, Departs from SU 224

**Research Orientation**

In three groups, participants will tour key campus facilities where resources are available to them during the workshop and throughout their involvement in the program:

†† Resources marked with †† will be available during unstructured research time in the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center in room 348 of the Walker Library.

Monday, July 13, 2015

- Center for Popular Music, with Greg Reish (Group A 1:00, Group B 2:00, Group C 3:00)
- James E. Walker Library, with a focus on electronic resources, such as Trials & Triumphs, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Library of Congress Teaching with Primary, with Susan Knowles and Ken Middleton; quickly LT&ITC, Walker 348, then down to meet Susan and Ken in computer room, Walker 272 (Grp B 1:00, Grp A 2:00, Grp B 3:00)
- Albert Gore Research Center, with Jim Williams and Mary Hoffschwelle (Group C 1:00, Group B 2:00, Group A 3:00)
- Group A led by Amy Sayward: Center for Popular Music/CPM 1:00, Walker Library 2:00, Gore Center 3:00
- Group B led by Antoinette Van Zelm: Walker Library 1:00, Gore Center 2:00, CPM 3:00
- Group C led by Mary Evins: Gore Center 1:00, CPM 2:00, Walker Library 3:00  
—Group Assignments are in the blue workshop folder—

#### 4:15-5:15 p.m., Student Union Building 224

##### **Community College Curriculum Review**

Focusing on the humanities content of the courses offered, we will discuss what is offered in the curriculum as well as what is not offered. How can the morning session content, readings, and dialogue be worked into current curriculum? In what ways can the humanities content help to understand other religions and cultures? How can the morning content connect to local issues at each college? What concepts in these materials link to state, local, and global issues that our students need to evaluate and integrate into their learning?

#### 5:15-5:30 p.m., Student Union Building 224

##### **Housekeeping**

##### **Dinner on Your Own**

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#### Tuesday, July 14, 2015

##### **Breakfast on Your Own**

†† Resources marked with †† will be available during unstructured research time in the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center in room 348 of the Walker Library.

8:30-11:00 a.m., MTSU Student Union Building 224

**Religion and Ethics: Religious Freedom, Pluralism, and Expression:** Overview of Religion and Ethics, including Case Studies of Religious Freedom and Freedom of Expression

**Distinguished Humanities Scholar M. Christian Green**, Ph.D., J.D., M.T.S.

Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University

**Link to PowerPoint Presentation**

Provided Faculty Readings:

- Leila Ahmed, "Backlash: The Veil, the Burka, and the Clamor of War," Ch. 9, in Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* (Yale U Press, 2011), 199-232 ††. —Available online on password-protected site—
- William Braniff, "Communities Must Work Together to Combat Extremism," *New York Times*, June 24, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/06/24/charleston-and-the-threat-of-homegrown-hate-groups/communities-must-work-together-to-combat-extremism>. —Copy in blue workshop folder—
- M. Christian Green and John Witte, "Religion," in *The Oxford Handbook on International Human Rights Law* (Oxford U Press, 2013) ††, 9-31, pre-publication version available at: [https://www.academia.edu/2088012/Religion\\_with\\_John\\_Witte\\_Jr.\\_in\\_Oxford\\_Handbook\\_on\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Law](https://www.academia.edu/2088012/Religion_with_John_Witte_Jr._in_Oxford_Handbook_on_Human_Rights_Law) ed. ed. Dinah Shelton Oxford University Press 2013 . —Available online on password-protected site—
- Simran Jeet Singh, "A Muslim Woman Beat Abercrombie & Fitch: Why Her Supreme Court Victory is a Win for All Americans" *The Washington Post*, June 1, 2015, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/06/01/a-muslim-woman-beat-abercrombie-fitch-why-her-supreme-court-victory-is-a-win-for-all-americans/>. —Copy in blue workshop folder—
- Garry Trudeau, "The Abuse of Satire," *The Atlantic*, April 11, 2015, <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/04/the-abuse-of-satire/390312/>. —Copy in blue workshop folder—
- John Witte Jr. and M. Christian Green, eds., *Religion and Human Rights* (Oxford: Oxford U Press, 2011).

Additional Sources:

Update 7/13: Further Additional Sources from M. Christian Green

- Reza Aslan, "Bill Maher Isn't the Only One Who Misunderstands Religion," *New York Times*, October 8, 2014, <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/04/why-garry-trudeau-is-wrong-about-charlie-hebdo/390336/>.

- Andrew Buncombe, “American Muslims Raise \$30,000 to help repair black churches destroyed by fire,” *The Independent* (United Kingdom), <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/american-muslims-raise-30000-to-help-repair-black-churches-destroyed-by-fire-10375704.html>.
- Diana L. Eck, “American Religious Pluralism: Civic and Theological Discourse,” in: *Democracy and the New Religious Pluralism*, ed. Thomas Banchoff (Oxford: Oxford U Press, 2007), 243-70; “‘Is Our God Listening?’: Exclusivism, Inclusivism, and Pluralism,” Ch. 7, in D.L. Eck, *Encountering God* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2003), 166-99; *A New Religious America* (New York: HarperCollins, 2001). The former is strong scholarship, the latter a more accessible read.
- David Frum, “Why Garry Trudeau Is Wrong About Charlie Hebdo,” *The Atlantic*, April 13, 2015, <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/04/why-garry-trudeau-is-wrong-about-charlie-hebdo/390336/>.
- M. Christian Green, “Between Blasphemy and Critique: Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech” (review essay), *Journal of Law and Religion* 29:2 (February 2014): 176-96; “From Third Wave to Third Generation: Feminism, Faith, and Human Rights,” in *Feminism, Law, and Religion*, ed. Marie A. Failinger, Elizabeth R. Schiltz, and Susan J. Stabile (Ashgate Publishing, 2013): 141-71. [https://mchristiangreen.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/015\\_chapter\\_6\\_failinger.pdf](https://mchristiangreen.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/015_chapter_6_failinger.pdf); “Burqas, Blobs, and Bans in ‘la belle France,’” *Contending Modernities: Catholic, Muslim, Secular* (Notre Dame, IN: Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, May 12, 2011). <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2011/05/12/burqas-blobs-and-bans-in-la-belle-france/>.
- Jonathan M. Katz and Richard Pérez-Peña, “In Chapel Hill Shootings of 3 Muslims, A Question of Motive,” *New York Times*, February 11, 2015.
- Ziya Meral, “The Question of Theodicy and Jihad,” *War on the Rocks* blog, February 26, 2015, <http://warontherocks.com/2015/02/the-question-of-theodicy-and-jihad/>.
- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*, 2nd ed. (New York: Continuum, 2003).
- Stephen Prothero, *God is Not One* (New York: HarperCollins, 2010); *Religious Literacy* (New York: HarperCollins, 2007) ††.
- Anna Sauerbrey, “Will the Burqa Be Banned in Berlin?” *New York Times*, June 7, 2015, [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/07/opinion/anna-sauerbrey-will-the-burqa-be-banned-in-berlin.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/07/opinion/anna-sauerbrey-will-the-burqa-be-banned-in-berlin.html?_r=0).
- United States Supreme Court, *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Abercrombie & Fitch*, decided July 15, 2015, [http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-86\\_p86b.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-86_p86b.pdf); *Snyder v. Phelps*, decided March 2, 2011 (discussed and quoted in M. Christian Green, “Between Blasphemy and Critique”). Text of Decision: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/10pdf/09-751.pdf>, Educational Activity: <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-snyder-v-phelps>.

- Jeremy Waldron, *The Harm in Hate Speech* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Press, 2012), summarized and quoted in M. Christian Green, “Between Blasphemy and Critique.”
- Ehab Zariyeh, “Imam of Torched Houston Mosque Meets Islamophobia with Love,” *Al-Jazeera America*, February 20, 2015, <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/2/20/houston-mosque-set-ablaze-responds-to-hate-with-love.html>.

Digital Resources:

- Combatting Religious Prejudice, Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, <https://tanenbaum.org/programs/interreligious-affairs/>.
- Justice with Michael Sandel, Harvard University, <http://www.justiceharvard.org>.
- Teaching Resources, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, <http://raac.iupui.edu/teaching-resources/>.

11:30-12:30 p.m., Student Union Building 224

**Light Lunch**, compliments of the MTSU College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Dawn McCormack, Associate Dean

1:00-3:00 p.m., Student Union Building 224

**Female Religious Leaders, Their Communities, and Their Challenges**

What are the challenges of being a female leader in a faith institution traditionally dominated by men? How does gender impact how you exercise leadership in your religious tradition? How does gender affect your interaction with other religious leaders?; How does power allocation and marginalization impact your work within your own circles? In our wider Tennessee community, what is the biggest challenge you face being a person of your particular faith? For the benefit of our college faculty: When you yourself teach young people, what works best, from your own experiences as a religious leader, in terms of bringing intercultural understanding about/between/among people of different faiths?; How best do we bridge religious divides?

Panel Discussion, including

- Ms. Kasar Abdulla, Kurdish American community leader, civic activist, and recipient of President Obama’s Champion of Change award
- Mrs. Radha Babu, Sri Ganesha Temple, Nashville
- Minister Dorothy Matthews, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Walter Hill
- Sister Mary Sarah, president of Aquinas College, Nashville
- Rev. Stacy Rector, Presbyterian minister and executive director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

3:00-3:15 p.m., Student Union Building 224

**Civic Health Survey**

Participants will take a brief civic health survey as an introduction to discussion on civic engagement, the role of individuals in communities, and how humanities content from the morning sessions can help bridge religious and cultural divides across disciplines.

3:15-3:30 p.m., Student Union Building 224

**Housekeeping**, with Special Focus on Appropriate Dress for Wednesday Visit to Buddhist Temple

3:30-5:30 p.m.

**Afternoon Research Session**

Open and unstructured research time to explore the resources of the Library (until 10:00 p.m.), Center for Popular Music (until 4:30 p.m.), and Albert Gore Research Center (until 5:00 p.m.) in greater depth, to access materials for fall and spring classes. Support staff are available all afternoon to assist you. NEH support will be set up specifically in the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center (LT&ITC, Walker Library room 348; thank you to Dr. Sheila Otto, Dr. Tom Brinhaupt, and Scott Haupt) and in the computer lab (Walker 272) to facilitate your research efforts, to provide a secure place to leave your belongings while you explore, and to help with anything else you need.

**Dinner on Your Own**

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Wednesday, July 15, 2015

**Breakfast on Your Own**

8:30 a.m., MTSU Student Union Building 224

**Midweek Greeting** by Dr. Brad Bartel, University Provost

8:30-11:00 a.m., MTSU Student Union Building 224

**Philosophy: Creating Cultures of Debate across Cultural and Religious Boundaries**

Key questions to be addressed include, Is it possible to discuss religion, in particular religious prescriptions such as divine commandments, rationally? Are disagreements on fundamental questions valuable? Can we be certain that what we believe to be right actually is right? Can we institute a culture of debate as an intellectual space that allows us to discuss issues we deeply care about, but also deeply disagree on? How are the beliefs and values we hold contingent, the outcome of our upbringing? Does the internal diversity of religious traditions require deliberating and choosing between competing interpretations?

†† Resources marked with †† will be available during unstructured research time in the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center in room 348 of the Walker Library.



**Distinguished Humanities Scholar Carlos Fraenkel, Ph.D.**

The James McGill Professor of Philosophy and Jewish Studies, McGill University

**Link to PowerPoint presentation**

Provided Faculty Readings:

- Al-Ghazali (d. 1111), *The Deliverance from Error*, pp. 19-27 of the English translation, <http://www.ghazali.org/books/gz-wat-del.pdf>. —Available online on password-protected site—
- Plato, *Euthyphro*. —Available online on password-protected site—
- John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (excerpts in the *Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought*, pp. 895 ff.) [Public domain, full text available online: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/34901/34901-h/34901-h.htm>; other formats (PDF, Kindle) are available for download as well, <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/34901>.] —Available online on password-protected site—
- Carlos Fraenkel, *Teaching Plato in Palestine: Philosophy in a Divided World* (Princeton U Press, 2015), Preface and Ch. 6 (Chs. 1 and 5 as supplementary reading).

Additional Sources:

- John Locke, *Letter on Toleration*, <http://www.constitution.org/jl/tolerati.txt>.
- Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers* (Norton, 2010) ††; *The Ethics of Identity* (Princeton: Princeton U Press, 2005). ††
- Martha C. Nussbaum, *Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education* (Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 1997).
- Charles Taylor, *Multiculturalism* (Princeton: Princeton U Press, 1994) ††; *Sources of the Self* (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 1989). ††

11:00 a.m., MTSU Student Union Building 224

**Housekeeping**

**Lunch on Your Own**

1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Afternoon Research Session**

Open and unstructured research time, Walker Library, Albert Gore Research Center, Center for Popular Music

3:30-5:30 p.m., Lao Buddhist Temple, 5214 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro

**Community Leaders Dialogue, The Local is Global**

What are the challenges of living in a community that does not have a formal place of worship? When you live in a dominantly Christian nation, when you're not of that faith, are the challenges?; how do you "melt" into that melting pot? When you live in a dominantly Christian nation, when you're not of that faith, how do you engage in civil

†† Resources marked with †† will be available during unstructured research time in the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center in room 348 of the Walker Library.



Wednesday, July 15, 2015

dialogue with other community members around issues of religious difference? Since 9/11 in the United States, how have fear and discrimination against Muslims impacted you, even though you are of a different religious tradition? What one truth would you like people in Tennessee to know about your religious tradition that you think they do not?

Panel Discussion

- Mr. Balbir Darar, Indian American Sikh, owner of The Clay Pit restaurant, 1813 Memorial Blvd.
- Commissioner Chantho Sourinho, Lao Buddhist Temple, 5214 Old Nashville Hwy., Murfreesboro
- Dr. Ravi Singh and Mrs. Meena Singh, Indian American Hindu, Murfreesboro psychiatrist
- Hanumatpresaka Swami, International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Murfreesboro

5:30 p.m., Lao Buddhist Temple, 5214 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro

**Housekeeping**, with Special Focus on Appropriate Dress for Thursday Iftar Dinner at Mosque

**Dinner on Your Own**

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Thursday, July 16, 2015

**Breakfast on Your Own**

6:45 a.m., Sidewalk on North Side of MTSU Student Union Building

**Board Tour Bus**

7:00 a.m.

**Depart Campus for Nashville** on Tour Bus

Handout on bus: Auerbach, *Odyssey Project Course Reader*

Video on bus: Freedom Riders

8:30 a.m., Downtown Nashville Public Library, on board bus

**Humanities Tennessee Greetings and Introduction**, Melissa Davis, Director of Community History Programs, Humanities Tennessee

†† Resources marked with †† will be available during unstructured research time in the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technologies Center in room 348 of the Walker Library.

9:00 a.m., The Commons, Third Floor, Nashville Public Library

**Welcome by NPL Special Collections/Civil Rights Collection and Humanities Tennessee,**

Luke Herbst, Special Collections Librarian, and Melissa Davis, Humanities Tenn., respectively

**Coffee**, compliments of Humanities Tennessee

9:00-11:30 a.m., The Commons, Third Floor, Nashville Public Library

**Literature: Transformations, The Power of Literature to Change Lives**

**Distinguished Humanities Scholar Emily Auerbach, Ph.D.**

Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison;

Director of the Odyssey Project, University of Wisconsin

Provided Faculty Readings:

- Emily Auerbach, ed., *Odyssey Project Course Reader* (Madison: UW Odyssey Project, 2014).
- Emily Auerbach and Kegan Carter, ed., *Transformations: 10 Years of the UW Odyssey Project* (Madison: U. Wisconsin Board of Regents, 2012).

For Use in General Education Classrooms:

- Collection of selected readings compiled by Emily Auerbach for *Odyssey Project Course Reader* (Madison: UW Odyssey Project, 2014), including
  - William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience—attacks religious tyranny and celebrates notion of love/brotherhood
  - Courage to Write sampler of early women authors—poems and prose that celebrate the courage of women who wrote at a time when they were told to be silent, including Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, Anne Bradstreet, Phillis Wheatley, Emma Lazarus, Emily Dickinson, Jane Austen, and others—poetry by Emily Dickinson in particular explores religious questions, strictures, and acting in faith
  - Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*—second chance, redemption, charity. [Full text, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/46/46-h/46-h.htm>; <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/46>.]
  - Frederick Douglass, *Narrative*—escaped 19<sup>th</sup> century slave recalls his flight from brutal slavery, his struggles to learn to read, his recognition that Christianity could be misused by slave owners. [Full text, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/23/23-h/23-h.htm>; <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/23>.]
  - Plato, Allegory of the Cave—power of enlightenment, getting out of the cave of ignorance. [Full text of The Republic, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1497/1497-h/1497-h.htm>; <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1497>.]

- Thoreau, Civil Disobedience [full text, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/71/71-h/71-h.htm>; <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/71>], and Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail [[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Letter\\_Birmingham.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html)]  
—a higher law than the law of the land
- Walt Whitman's poetry—celebrates inclusivity, diversity, embracing cultures. [Full text: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/8388/pg8388.html>; <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8388>.]

Additional Sources:

- Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (New York: Random House, 1969), <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1934/1934-h/1934-h.htm>; <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1934>. Moving autobiography.
- Anne Frank, *Diary of Anne Frank* (1952), and Tatiana de Rosnay, *Sarah's Key* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007). Holocaust experiences.
- Toni Morrison, *Recitatif* (1983). A short story of black and white girls meeting at five different stages in their life; Morrison's short story doesn't tell us which girl is black and which is white, so the story creates an interesting awareness of our own stereotypes.
- Alice Walker, *The Color Purple* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1970). Discussion of finding God in nature, racism, sexism, recovery from abuse.
- Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala* (London: Orion House, 2013) ††. Autobiography by Pakistani teenager shot by Taliban.

Digital Resources:

- University of Wisconsin Madison, Forward Motion – The Odyssey Project, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqddlNO90bs&feature=youtu.be>.
- PBS American Experience, Freedom Riders documentary (2011), <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders/watch>.

11:45-12:15 p.m., Civil Rights Room, Second Floor, Nashville Public Library

**Introduction to Civil Rights Collection and Mr. Earnest (Rip) Patton**, Luke Herbst, Special Collections Librarian

**Overview and Reflections**, Rip Patton, community leader, civil rights activist, and original member of the Nashville Student Movement and a Freedom Rider

12:25 p.m., Provence Café on First Floor of Library and Sixth Avenue North

**Pick Up Box Lunches and Board Bus**

Lunch compliments of Humanities Tennessee

12:30-2:15 p.m.

**Lunch** on Board Bus

**Civil Rights Driving Tour**, North Nashville

Mr. Rip Patton, Narrator, Historian, and Tour Guide

Mr. Patton speaks regularly on his years as a young civil rights activist with the Nashville Student Movement and his experiences as a Freedom Rider that resulted in his incarceration at Parchman prison, the Mississippi state penitentiary. He did civic work, he says, because "It was the right time," and he was guided by these spiritual words:

- Romans 12:1-2: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I. Send me.
- Psalm 23:4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

2:30-4:45 p.m., Nashville Public Library

**Interfaith Community Dialogue**, hosted by Faith and Culture Center, Our Muslim Neighbor Initiative, and A Seat at the Table, moderated by Mr. Daoud Abudiab and Mr. Aaron Stauffer

Interfaith leaders will offer their ideas and experiences with building communities through dialogue, mediation, and engagement. Workshop participants will be asked to address the ways in which the traditions and values of the humanities are reflected in the work of these community leaders who provide a language to bridge religious and cultural divides. How can stories of these community leaders be worked into classes at community colleges? How can these reach beyond the classroom to the local community? What lectures might we want to host in the coming semesters related to this project? Moderators will

- Address strategies and tools to help professors respond in the classroom to unhelpful generalizations and stereotypes about Muslims (such as "I heard that all Muslims...").
- Provide attendees with a chance to engage in rich conversations with local Tennessee Muslims, to get to know Muslims and hear from Muslims themselves in their own voices.
- Make available resources so the professors can create similar experiences of getting to know their Muslim neighbors or familiarize themselves with Islam in America, by offering to bring A Seat at the Table to their classrooms and the like.

5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Depart Nashville Public Library for Murfreesboro**

**Video** on bus: Unwelcome: The Muslims Next Door, CNN documentary, and Welcome to Shelbyville, PBS Documentary

7:00-9:30 p.m., [Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, 2605 Veals Road, Murfreesboro](#)

**Dialogue and Iftar Dinner**, hosted by Dr. Ossama Bahloul, Imam of the Murfreesboro Mosque, The Final Day of Ramadan, Breaking the Fast

9:30 p.m., **Board Bus**

**Return to Campus**, to Cars  
**Housekeeping**

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Friday, July 17, 2015

**Breakfast on Your Own**

9:30-11:30 a.m., [The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro, 225 West College Street, Murfreesboro](#)

Free Public Parking: City Parking Deck, Corner of West Vine and South Church; Enter from West Vine or Northwest Broad Streets.

—*Location Map and Parking Map are in the blue workshop folder*—

**History: Integration of Global and Local:** Tying It All Together

**Distinguished Humanities Scholar Ronald Messier, Ph.D.**

Director, Moroccan-American Archaeological Project in Aghmat, Morocco; Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Middle Tennessee State University

Professor Messier will address classical Islam *versus* Islam in America today; Jesus, one man, two faiths; and the context of the mosque controversy in Tennessee, issues and conflicts in our communities, and how we as professors in the classroom can positively contribute.

**[Link to PowerPoint Presentation](#)**

**[Link to Notes for Additional Slides](#)**

**[Link to Additional Reading List](#)**

Provided Faculty Reading:

- John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed, *Who Speaks for Islam?* (New York: Gallup Press, 2007). Results of Gallup's World Poll.

Additional Sources:

- Karen Armstrong, *A History of God: The 4000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993) ††; *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992). ††
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- Next Door Neighbors, WNPT, <http://ndn.wnpt.org/documentaries/>; <https://youtu.be/1KTS8B6J4w4>.
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12:00-1:15 p.m.

**Lunch on your own** in Downtown Murfreesboro

1:30-3:00 p.m., The Heritage Center, 225 West College Street

**Faculty Learning Communities**

**FLC Introduction, Modeling by from MTSU FLC Members, and Calendaring for AY15-16**

To ensure sustainability of the program, beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year and long beyond, workshop participants will discuss the role of FLCs in supporting the objectives of the program and providing a route to curriculum re-design focused on the role of humanities in bridging cultures in a civil society. How are civic learning and civic engagement integrated into every classroom? Creating FLCs in individual community colleges allows workshop participants to continue studying together and supporting each other, in order to intentionally put into classroom use the ideas and information generated during the workshop.



3:15-4:45 p.m., Heritage Center

**Synthesis and Review**

On this final afternoon, referencing the readings, discussions, presentations, and other activities of the workshop, and led by our Jackson State and Cleveland State facilitators, participants will discuss our own implementation for fall and winter semesters, how to upgrade use of humanities materials in our teaching, finding more ways to enrich civic life and civil discourse in our courses that in turn move course content toward bridging gaps in religious and cultural divides. How will the readings, research, and workshop influence and concretely change curricula offered to the students in our own college classrooms?

4:45-5:00 p.m.

**Final Housekeeping,**

**5:00 - Departure for Home, Dinner on Your Own**