

RLG418H1S  
Tolerant Ethics, Intolerable Religions  
Thursday 12pm – 2pm  
Jackman Humanities Building 317

**Instructor**

Dr. Sol Goldberg

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Office Hour: Friday 10:30am -11:30am or by appointment

**Description**

Few deny that liberalism and multiculturalism rest on promoting tolerance towards divergent religious outlooks. Yet, the value of tolerance seems to be plagued by several contradictions, paradoxes, and shortcomings. Consider the following three difficulties that plague the concept and alleged virtue of tolerance. (1) Tolerance can only be exercised with respect to outlooks deemed intolerable, but why should one ever tolerate the intolerable? (2) If liberalism does not extend its tolerance to intolerant belief systems, then how may it nevertheless claim its superiority to them because of its self-professed tolerance? (3) If tolerance is the virtue of putting up with something intolerable for good reason, then an extremely tolerant person must find many views and behaviors objectionable. How could that conclusion ever be squared with ordinary view about tolerance as a kind of acceptance? This course will look at the necessity, sufficiency, and congruity of tolerance as a value, paying special attention to the historical and contemporary problem of religious diversity.

**Evaluation**

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Participation	20%
3 Short Papers	30%
Presentation	10%
Final Essay	40%

## ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Students with diverse needs are welcome in this course. Please contact the Accessibility Centre (<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>) for needs assessment, referrals and arrangements. The instructors will be glad to provide whatever assistance is necessary.

## PLAGIARISM

*From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.*

“It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

To represent as one’s own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on ‘knowing,’ the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.”

## COURSE MATERIAL

All of the texts for the course will be available on Blackboard. The weekly readings are substantive. Although it might not be possible to study in advance of our discussion all the texts for a particular week’s class, the expectation is that students will do their best to be basically familiar with them.

## **Seminar Schedule**

1. Introduction
2. The Tolerance of Liberalism (read: Rawls)
3. Some Challenges of Tolerance (read: Scanlon, Williams, MacIntyre)
4. Is Tolerance a Virtue? (read: Horton, Galeotti, Barnes, Engelen & Nys)
5. The paradox of tolerance (read: Waldron, Scheffler, Forst, Benbaji & Heyd)
6. From tolerance to pluralism (read: Quinn, Byrne)
7. Multiculturalism, or the insufficiency of tolerance (read: Raz, Apel, Galeotti, Kelly & McPherson)
8. The adequacy and necessity of tolerance (read: Horton, Augenstein, Lukes, Jones)
9. On being tolerated (read: Green, Taylor, Appiah)
10. Tolerance towards minorities (read: Walzer, Kymlicka, Parekh)
11. The Rhetoric of Tolerance (read: Brown, Zizek)
12. Student Presentations