

*ICRS-Yogya: Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies*  
*Syllabus –Draft 7*

**RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES PART I**

***Topic: Violence and Religion and Gender***

First Semester, 2007-2008

Bernard Adeney-Risakotta

Thursdays, 10:00-12:30

Wening Udasmoro

3 Credits (SKS)

This is the first semester of a two semester required course for Ph.D. students in ICRS-Yogya Area II, Religion and Contemporary Issues. The focus of the course is on contemporary issues and the response of religious communities to these issues. As stated in the ICRS-Yogya Prospectus, *this Area includes sociological, political and economic analysis of the role of religion in society, with special attention to the social ethics of different religious traditions. Themes of particular interest include post-colonialism, globalization, justice, inter-religious dialogue, human rights, ecology, religion and science, gender, democracy, civil society, community development, conflict, violence and poverty.* Of course all these issues cannot be examined in the two required courses.

In each semester the course will focus on one or two particular contemporary issues or topics. The topics will change each semester and from year to year. We will examine these topics with special attention to how different social theories help us to understand structural causes of the problems raised by the contemporary issue in question. Our approach is not to present one correct theory, but rather to present different perspectives on social problems based on different theoretical ways of conceptualizing contemporary issues. Our goal is to understand the social realities that give rise to the problem, as illuminated by the social sciences.

Social scientific understanding of contemporary issues is intended to illuminate the response of religious communities to these issues. Religious communities are not outside, autonomous actors who can intervene at will. Rather they are themselves a part of the contemporary issues in question. They help create, defend, change and destroy the social structures that give rise to social problems. In this regard, we examine religious responses to contemporary issues, not primarily as normative teaching or revelation, but rather as human communities who are both part of the problem and part of the solution. We will consider moral and ethical teachings of different religions (especially Islam and Christianity) that are relevant to a particular contemporary issue with particular attention to the actual practices and influence of religious communities (past, present and future) on the issues in question.

The first semester in 2007 focuses on the contemporary issues of violence, religion and gender. During this semester we will focus on the reality of violence and how it interacts with gender, how various theories (social, economic, political and cultural) help illuminate the historical and structural roots of violence. We will also see how discourse analysis and Feminist theory illuminate problems of violence. Religious teaching and practices are examined in the context of the social reality of violence with special attention to gender relations. The second half of this course (January-May 2008), will continue the same approach with a different contemporary issue, but will pay greater attention to the social ethics of different religions.

## *Class Schedule*

### **Part I. Theory & Methods in Studying Contemporary Issues & Religion**

- 6/9/07 1. Introduction: Methods for Studying Contemporary Issues and Religion: Structure & Agency, Experience, Empirical Research, History, Social Science, Theories, Interpretation, Religious Teaching, Community Action.  
**Recommended reading:** Bucholtz, Mary. 2001, "Reflexivity & Critique in Discourse Analysis", in *Critique of Anthropology*.
- 13/9 2. The definition of conflict and violence and the position of religion and religious studies in these issues. Is Indonesia a violent country?  
**Required Readings:** F. Colombijn & J. T. Lindblad, eds., *Roots of Violence in Indonesia*, pp. 1-31; Flax, Jane. 1990 "Postmodernism & Gender Relations in Feminist Theory" in Linda J. Nicholson (ed). *Feminism/Postmodernism*, pp. 38-62.

### **Part II. Historical Perspectives:**

- 20/9 3. The Historical Roots of Violence in Indonesia  
**Required Readings:** Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, pp. 1-36; Henk Schulte Nordholt, "A genealogy of violence" in Colombijn & Lindblad, pp. 33-61; Y. B. Mangunwijaya, "The Indonesia Raya Dream and its Impact on the Concept of Democracy" in David Bourchier & John Legge, *Democracy in Indonesia*, pp. 79-87; O'Rourke, Kevin, 2002. *Reformasi: The Struggle for Power in Post-Soeharto Indonesia*, pp. 97-135.
- 27/9 4. The Trauma of 1965-1966 and the Role of Religion  
**Required Readings:** Robert Cribb, "Problems in the historiography of the killings in Indonesia" and Kenneth R. Young, "Local and National Influences in the violence of 1965" in Robert Cribb, ed., *The Indonesian Killings 1965-1966*, pp. 1-43, 63-99.

### **Part III. Religious Perspectives on Violence and Peace**

- 4/10 5. Umat Islam, Violence and Peace: Normative Teachings, Historical Realities. Topic: The threat and use of violence in Islam  
**Required Readings:** Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1991. *Women, Islam and the State*, pp. 1-21; Kelsay, John, *Islam and War*, pp. 29-55; Asad, Talal, *Genealogies of Religion*, pp. 269-306.
- 11/10 *No Class, Idul Fitri*  
18/10 *No Class, Idul Fitri*
- 25/10 6. The Christian Church, Violence and Peace: Normative Teachings, Historical Realities (*Wening on leave 25/10 - 28/11*)  
Topic: Christianity, Colonialism, Capitalism and Neo-imperialism  
**Required Readings:** Bernard Adeney, *Just War, Political Realism and Faith*, pp. 23-48; 87-131; Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion & Embrace*, pp.13-55;

- 1/11 7. Ideological Conflict (with Noorhaidi Hasan?)  
Issue: Terrorism, Bombs in Bali and Jakarta and the Concept of Jihad  
**Required Reading:** Weber, Max (Charismatic theory), *Sociology of Religion* (ref?); Noorhaidi Hasan, "September 11 and Islamic Militancy in Post-New Order Indonesia" and Bernard Adeney-Risakotta, "The Impact of September 11 on Islam in Southeast Asia" in K.S. Nathan & Moh. Hashim Kamali, *Islam in Southeast Asia*

#### **Part IV. Political, Social and Religious Violence**

- 8/11 8. Violence, the State and Independence (or Guest lecture with Prof. Christine Gudorf) Issue: East Timor, Aceh and West Papua  
**Required Reading:** Robert Cribb, "From Total People's Defence to Massacre" and Geoffrey Robinson, "The Fruitless Search for a Smoking Gun" in Colombijn & Lindblad, pp. 227-276.
- 15/11 *No class.* **Recommended Reading:** Bourdieu, Pierre, *Language and Symbolic Power*; Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*.
- 22/11 9. Ethnic group conflict and violence (*Bernie & Wening away*) Ivana leads discussion. Issues: Violence after the break up of Yugoslavia  
Conflict between Maduranese and Dayaknese in Kalimantan  
Film about Bosnia **Required Reading:** To be announced
- 29/11 10. Domestic & Work related Violence, Violence against Women and migrant workers. **Required Reading:** Idrus, Nurul Ilmi, 2001, "Marriage, Sex and Violence", in Susan Blackburn, *Women in Southeast Asia*, pp. 43-56; Jenkins, Richard, *Pierre Bourdieu*, pp. 103-125; Bourdieu, Pierre, 2002. *Masculine Domination*, pp. 5-53 ;
- 6/12 11. Military Violence  
Issue: Military Violence in Aceh and Papua  
**Required Reading:** Siapno, Jacqueline Aquino. 2003. *Gender, Islam, Nationalism and the State in Aceh*, pp. 20-49; Yuval-Davis, Nira, *Gender and Nation*, pp. 93-115;
- 7/12\* 12. Vertical Conflict and Violence \*Note: Friday at 15:30 at ICRS-Yogya  
Issue: conflict and violence during the *Reformasi* Movement in 1998. (Including: Mass Rape and Violence against Chinese ethnic women)  
**Required Readings:** Stefan Eklof, *Indonesian Politics in Crisis*, pp. 23-74; 175-219.
- 13/12 13. Community-Religion and Conflict  
Issue: Conflict in Ambon and Halmahera (1999-2000)  
Readings: Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, *Politics, Ritual and Identity in Indonesia*, pp. 227-274; Van Klinken, Gerry, "What Caused the Ambon Violence?" *Inside Indonesia*, No. 60. Oct-Dec 1999.

14/12\* 14. Religion, Reconciliation and Peace (*Friday, 15:30 with dinner at Bernie's house*) Issue: Reconciliation and Peace in the Moluccus  
Reading: Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, *Politics, Ritual and Identity in Indonesia*, pp. 275-311.

### **Requirements and Grading**

1. Each student must write a short (1-2 pages) critical response to the required readings each week. These must be turned in on time each week. (50%)
2. A final, research paper is due on or before December 21, 2007. Students may choose any topic related to Religion and Contemporary Issues. While the topic may or may not be related to the topic of the course (violence, religion & gender), students must demonstrate their critical ability to use methods and theories learned in the class. Maximum 20 pages, double spaced, 12 pt., plus bibliography.(50%)
3. *Optional: Prepare a short article for publication, inspired by this course. (+)*