



**SAS 512 – Unity in Contemporary Society – 3 cr hr/4 ceu
Short Syllabus**

Faculty	Rev. Karrin Scapple, Ph.D.
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Required Reading	<p>Fillmore, Myrtle. <i>How to let God help you</i>. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 1956.</p> <p>Rothberg, Donald. <i>The engaged spiritual life: A Buddhist approach to transforming ourselves and the world</i>. Boston: Beacon Press, 2006.</p> <p>Articles on reserve in the Unity Library.</p> <p>Fillmore talks available in e-documents from Karrin.</p>
Recommended Reading	

Course Description:

This course challenges students to look at the role that Unity plays in today's world. Major world views and their influence on how individual and spiritual organizations see and respond in the world are explored, as are issues of church and state in the United States. Students will investigate the potential for application of Unity teachings to various contemporary issues and explore the impact this could have on our world.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this courses, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and articulate their understanding of the broader historical and world view context from which Unity emerged as a foundation for understanding Unity's role in today's world.
2. Compare and contrast Unity spiritual principles with their understanding of an appropriate role for Unity in today's world.
3. Identify whether there are specific social issues about which they are impassioned and formulate strategies to integrate this passion into their ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity and the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

- 2 Describe and integrate administrative and leadership abilities to create a productive and growing ministry.
- 4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry.

Assignments:

World view analytical presentation: Students will work in small groups to briefly describe a major current issue at the state, national or international level, identify the actors involved, and then, using evidence, analyze the actors to determine their world view. The group will create a handout summarizing their findings, and share their findings to the class in a very short presentation.

Exam on church and state issues.

Discussions of final paper topics: Students will come to class prepared to discuss their final paper topics – the basic issue and the possible role for Unity.

Final paper: Choose a topic/issue of special interest and write a proposal to the Association of Unity Churches International that explains why Unity should adopt this topic/issue as part of its official policy. The paper is to explain the nature of the topic/issue (including world view and church-state issue, if relevant), the spiritual principles involved, and reasons why Unity should become involved in this topic/issue. Conclude with an explanation of how you could become personally involved in the topic/issue.

The paper is to be 20-25 pages in length, integrating course material and fully attributing all sources.

The faculty member will provide a complete syllabus one week before class begins.