



Education & Retreat Center

WELCOME LETTER

Guests in God's House

Instructor: Jay Rock

Start Date: 6/23/19

End Date: 6/29/19

Check-In Begins at 3:00pm at the Welcome Center on 6/23/19. Dinner 5:30 – 6:30;

Orientation 6:45 pm

Invitation: This week we will explore what religions are, and how they can shape and energize us, and our communities. We will visit neighboring religious communities, including Dar al-Islam, the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, and Christ in the Desert Monastery; and engage in a day of pilgrimage to the Santuario de Chimayo. Study sessions, personal reflection, spiritual practice and group discussion will help us develop our interfaith imagination, and allow us to weave together new understandings of how to build engaged and loving inter-religious relationships.

Learning Outcomes: This week we will explore what religions are, and how they can shape and energize us, and our communities. We will visit neighboring religious communities, including Dar al-Islam, the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, and Christ in the Desert Monastery; and engage in a day of pilgrimage to the Santuario de Chimayo. Study sessions, personal reflection, spiritual practice and group discussion will help us develop our interfaith imagination, and allow us to weave together new understandings of how to build engaged and loving inter-religious relationships.

Course Schedule:

The class schedule is 9-noon and 7-8:30 or 9 PM. The times for our visits and pilgrimage day will vary - some will be in the late afternoon or evening. Our day of pilgrimage will begin early on one morning, and extend into the afternoon. Our schedule will be adjusted accordingly, so that you will have adequate time for rest, reflection, and recreation on the Ranch or in the surrounding area.

Instructor Background: We are excited to share our varied experience with you. Together, Sherri, Rob and Jay have been involved in building interfaith institutions, women's groups, young adult programs, dialogues, formal institutional relationships between religious communities, and leading interfaith pilgrimages. We have also written interfaith statements and study/action materials, and designed courses and events, but we share an approach that emphasizes joint exploration and engagement. Living together at Casa del Sol will provide us the ideal desert location, and allow us time to be with one another, to play and explore together, and to deepen our spiritual connecton with this kind of work and calling.

Provided Materials: None

What to Bring: Please be sure to bring a portable waterbottle, sturdy shoes and sun protection with you. You may also want to have a journal or notebook. If you want to bring a musical instrument, or art materials, please do! Bring your stories of inter-religious encounters, and your questions, joys and concerns. Also, if you have poems or prayers that have especially moved or encouraged you, bring those as well, to weave into our times of spiritual practice. We make the road by walking.

FAQs: Q: Is this course only for Christians?

A: No. We welcome the perspectives, faith, and experience of people from any religious tradition, or none.

Q: Is this course only about ideas or the verbal/belief side of religious life?

A: No, we will explore religious traditions in all of their aspects, and will do things as well as talk.

Q: Do you have to believe in God to take part in this course? A: No, though we will talk about the transcendent dimension of existence, and will not debate whether or not God exists. Most of the participants, as well as the instructors, will probably refer to God.

Q: What if I have other questions? A: Please contact Jay Rock via email, at bat2rock@yahoo.com

Recommended Resources: Resources will be discussed during the course. You need not read anything in advance.