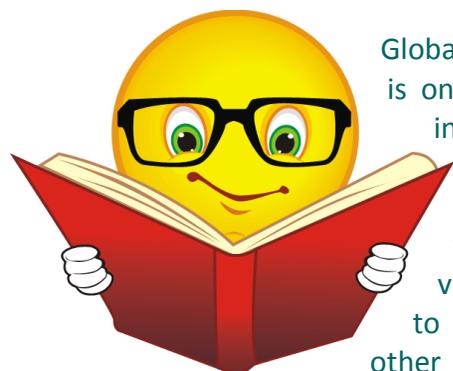


Course Limitations Benefit Students



Global Ministries University is one of the few learning institutions that allows students to work at their own pace. This flexibility gives individuals the opportunity to fit coursework into other necessary functions

they may have in their lives, such as career, family obligations, home and community responsibilities. This method of study is certainly a plus, making it possible for those who would otherwise not be able to do so, achieve their academic and ministerial goals.

However, we have found that there is a lessening of continuity and a loss of momentum in the learning process when there are large gaps between assignments of a course. Our method of study is not designed to simply read material and test your retention of that material. Rather, our assignments consist primarily of essay-type questions, which involve students in a process of learning. In this process, a rapport with the instructor is developed, making it possible for the instructor to offer students more relevant and supportive feedback.

It is still possible to take as long as needed to complete a course as long as the instructor is still available but because it is our goal to offer the best possible learning experience, we have begun to discourage open-ended courses by placing a limitation of nine months on the amount of time students may take to complete a course. If it is not possible to complete a course within the nine-month period, students will be required to request an extension. If the instructor is still available, student is given a three-month extension free of charge. If more time is needed after one year, students must again request an extension and submit a \$25 extension fee every three months thereafter. As one can see, students are still able to work at their own pace but are motivated to complete the course within a reasonable amount of time. We believe this modification is beneficial to our students and has already proven to be very successful.

You are cordially invited to support the week-long interfaith training program in Nairobi from August 10 to 14 (see President Grudzen's message to the right).

[Yes, I want to contribute to this extremely needed and worthwhile cause.](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Global Ministries University has pioneered diverse types of interfaith and intercultural educational programs in the US, Bangladesh, Thailand and Kenya, East Africa. Many of these interfaith programs have been developed in collaboration with the international Hizmet movement, an interfaith educational and spiritual program inspired by the Turkish spiritual leader, Fethullah Gulen. Three of the key interfaith faculty members located in the US and Kenya were interviewed via Skype and broadcast live over Ustream on June 23 at Pacifica Institute in Sunnyvale, CA. Frank Pisciotta, a GMU doctoral candidate who now resides in Florida, explained his role in the recent planning meetings for upcoming Interfaith seminars which will be held in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya during the month of August, 2015. Fatih Akdogan, Director of a Hizmet affiliated school in Mombasa, Kenya also was present for a Skype interview with the Reverend Martin Olando, Director of the Bishop Hannington Theological Institute in Mombasa, Kenya. These three men are part of the faculty for interfaith training programs in Kenya cosponsored with the Hizmet Harmony Foundation in Kenya, The Maryknoll Fathers and Sisters of East Africa, Columbia University Africa Regional Center, The Coast Interfaith Council and Global Ministries University. The record of these interviews along with commentary by Doctor Gerald Grudzen and Marita Grudzen, can be found at the Global Ministries University Ustream channel: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/global-ministries-presents>. The **week-long interfaith training program in Nairobi from August 10 to 14** will also be available at the Global Ministries Ustream Internet channel listed above.



The Nairobi program will feature presentations by the following Individuals who are specialists in diverse areas of interfaith studies:

- Professor Richard Bulliet, Columbia University, New York, History of Islam
- Professor Teresia Hinga, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, Ca, African theology (Kenyan American)
- Professor Yehezkel Landau of Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CN, Interfaith Studies
- Marita Grudzen, Stanford University, Stanford, CA Intercultural and interfaith Dialogue
- Doctor Greta Berman of the Juilliard School, New York, Art history
- Doctor Martin Olando, Bishop Hannington Institute, Mombasa, Kenya, African Theology and Interfaith Studies
- Doctor Tsawe Munga, Pwani University, Coastal Region, Kenya, Indigenous religions of Kenya and African Theology
- Mr. John Baya, Indigenous Kenyan religion leader and GMU student, Indigenous religions of Kenya
- Doctor Othman Mujahid, Pwani University, Coastal Region, Kenya, History of Islam in Kenya and Interfaith Studies
- Doctor Sudarshan Kapoor, Fresno State University, Fresno, CA, Peace Studies
- Director and Ghandi non violence studies (*Satyagraha*)
- Raj Ayyar, Philosophy Instructor, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi, India, History of Religions and Interfaith Dialogue in India
- Mr. Zacharay Chiliswa, Jesuit social research center, Hakimani Institute, Nairobi, Kenya, Sociological research on interfaith issues in Kenya
- Sister Teresa Gougnon and Sister Gang Nguyen (Maryknoll Sisters), Conflict resolution theory and practice in Kenya
- Judy Walter, Director of Bangladesh Health Clinic, Mombasa, Kenya, Hindu/Christian and Christian/Muslin Interfaith service
- Father Lance Nadeau, Chaplain, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, Interfaith and youth issues
- Father Wilybard Lagho, Chairman, Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics, (CICC) Mombasa, Kenya, Interfaith studies
- Reverend Stephen Anyenda, Executive Director, CICC, Mombasa, Kenya, Interfaith studies
- Esther Kaleli, Manager of Interfaith Course Studies, CICC, Mombasa, Kenya, Interfaith studies
- Most Reverend Joseph Mutungi, Diocese of Machakos, Nairobi, Kenya, Interfaith representative
- Fatih Akdogan, Harmony Foundation and Light Academy, Mombasa, Kenya, Interfaith Studies
- Reverend Frank Pisciotta, Doctor Candidate, Global Ministries University, Interfaith studies
- Doctor Gerald Grudzen, Global Ministries University and Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, Interfaith Studies

Because of the time difference between Kenya and the USA (7 hours later with EST and 10 with PST), we will make the interfaith seminar available for at least one month on our Ustream channel. After one month, you will be able to order a DVD of selected portions of the week long program.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Antoinette Marold is the mentor for the Weddings and Other Commitment Ceremonies track of our Celebrant Training Program. A Wedding Celebrant & Coordinator herself, she is extremely qualified to fill this role. She has worked with over 1,000 couples of various cultures and faith traditions, as well as those with no religious affiliation. She asserts that *weddings are her passion*.

She is commissioned to legally witness marriages through the Federation of Christian Ministries, and has a background in marriage preparation. In addition to being a Wedding Celebrant and Coordinator, she has experience in many aspects of the wedding industry and also conducts other services related to rites of passage, such as baptisms, baby naming, and funerals.

Antoinette has been interviewed by Cleveland Magazine and is a past Senior Member (*member for over 10 years*) of the Association of Bridal Consultants. She is also a Reiki Master/Karuna Reiki Practitioner, which involves healing/meditation. Her latest accomplishment is a guide for wedding celebrants/officiants, *By the Power vested in me.. A Guide for Wedding Celebrants/Officiants*, which has been included in her course curriculum. To find out more about her celebrant ministry, visit her web site: www.eleganteventsbyantoinette.com.

Antoinette resides in Bedford, Ohio, with her husband, Dennis. They have four adult children and 3 grandchildren.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Jeannette Mulherin – a student in the Master of Theology Degree Program -- is a consultant to the Federal Government. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the Peabody Institute of the John Hopkins University and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations from Georgetown University.

After joining the Women's Ordination Conference Board, she discovered some deficiencies in her knowledge of feminist theology and found the master's program at GMU to be the perfect solution. She is currently WOC Board President.

When asked about her experience of the program, she states that she has been '*introduced to the works of great scholars, past and present.*' Additionally, '*class assignments have provided her the opportunity of a deeper understanding of the material, as well as clarification of her own values and commitment to the cause of women's equality in the Church.*'

Jeannette is single and resides Burke, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C. She has a small fishing boat on a lake near home, where she has spent many peaceful hours, accompanied by her dog, Sparky -- completing GMU reading assignments!

Jeannette invites all of our readers to attend the [Women's Ordination Worldwide Conference](#) this September 18-20 in Philadelphia. WOC has gathered an impressive [list of speakers](#), and has partnered with GMU to offer a for-credit [academic seminar](#), taught by GMU Instructor, Mary E. Hunt, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Shannen Dee Williams, and Nancy Pineda Madrid.

Become a Friend of GMU on Facebook

Global Ministries University invites you to show your support for our unique and inclusive online learning institution that offers courses to equip people from a variety of faith traditions to minister with integrity, competence, and professionalism. **Become a Friend of GMU Now!**

Send feedback, comments, and/or questions to Jean Conley, editor and Vice-President for Operations and Development, [Global Ministries University](#)