



ICJS Mission and Goals

The Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies addresses the contemporary challenges of religious pluralism by shaping a new relationship between Christians and Jews. Through careful, in-depth studies of sacred writings and traditions, we enable scholars, educators, clergy, seminarians and lay people to:

- Reexamine the meaning of our religious assumptions, particularly about the other.
- Challenge the theological distortions and misconceptions that have contributed to the historical conflict between Christians and Jews.
- Develop resources within our respective communities that inspire both Christians and Jews to honor the legitimacy and distinctiveness of the other.

The ICJS seeks to:

- Disarm religious hatred by confronting religious sources of misunderstanding and developing new strategies to correct these distortions.
- Promote understandings of other religious traditions, particularly of Islam, the third Abrahamic tradition.
- Create new educational models and public forums that explore the interplay of core religious beliefs, values and practices within the public square.



ICJS Fall 2010 Mini-Course



Tuesday Mornings

September 14 and 21, 2010

October 12 and 19, 2010

November 9 and 16, 2010

9:30-11:30 a.m. at ICJS

*Discovering Our Common Ground,
Celebrating Our Differences*

Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies
956 Dulaney Valley Road
Baltimore, MD 21204
410-494-7161
www.icjs.org

Why “reclaiming the center”?

A healthy democracy is invigorated by divergent points of view. Yet the center cannot hold if citizens become so polarized and fragmented that we cannot engage one another in searching and sustained debate. The ability to listen openly and to learn from conflicting perspectives is an essential discipline for the vitality of a healthy democracy.

The foundational stories of western civilization are rooted in the religious imagination, and yet most Americans are poorly equipped to read, interpret, or critique the religious underpinnings of our social order. Without understanding the ways religion is used and abused at home and abroad, we are all susceptible to prejudice and manipulation.

Reclaiming the Center (RTC) is a new adult educational initiative that reveals and explores not only what we share, but what is **distinctive** or **particular** about our religious traditions. Through text study, lecture and small group discussion, RTC participants learn to understand and celebrate those distinctions.

Reclaiming the Center reframes the conversation and challenges us to engage with the wisdom of our religious traditions in light of contemporary life.

Add your voice ...



Together we will explore dimensions of the sacred and the holy, foundational narratives of sibling rivalry, distinctive ways we read and interpret our sacred texts, and our capacity to engage in sacred arguing.

RECLAIMING THE CENTER

Instructors

Dr. Christopher Leighton
Dr. Rosann Catalano
Dr. Adam Gregerman
Rabbi Ilyse Kramer

Register online at
www.ICJS.org/events
or mail registration to ICJS,
956 Dulaney Valley Road,
Baltimore, MD 21204.
Questions? Call 410-494-7161.

Find additional educational materials, the program's pilot sites, and photo gallery at www.icjs.org; click on **RECLAIMING THE CENTER** (the RED BOX).

Fee: \$60.00 / 6 sessions

Please consider supporting the RTC initiative with an additional gift of \$40.00 or more. Thank you!

Tear-Off Registration (Please RSVP on or before September 10, 2010.) Yes, I would like to register for the Fall Mini-Course **RECLAIMING THE CENTER** on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on September 14 and 21, October 12 and 19, and November 9 and 16, 2010 at ICJS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address (Please help us to be green.): _____
We will use your e-mail address for ICJS information only.

\$60 Reclaiming the Center Registration Fee \$ _____ to help support the **RECLAIMING THE CENTER** Initiative.

Total Enclosed _____

My gift is in honor/in memory of _____