SPEAKER SERIES

Craigie Memorial Talks Featuring David Gushee

About Peter Craigie

Inaugurated in 1988, this lecture series honours the memory of our colleague and friend, Peter Craigie (d. 1985). Prof. Craigie was a member of the department of Religious Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and Vice-President (Academic) of the University.

Each year, a distinguished lecturer is invited to address the University and Calgary-area communities on topics from the discipline of Religious Studies.

All events are free and open to the public. Reception to follow and all are welcome.

Peter Craigie Memorial Lecture

Religious Ethics in the Public Sphere: Lessons from Christian Resistance to US-Sponsored Torture

Monday October 29th | 7:00 p.m. | EEEL 161

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States Government authorized torture of certain “high-value detainees” in its custody. This torture program was kept secret as long as possible, but finally became public knowledge. A debate erupted in the United States over the morality of torture. This talk describes my own involvement in that debate, and then steps back to reflect lessons learned about the role of religious ethics in heated public policy debates. One lesson is that sometimes only the transcendent resources offered by religion are powerful enough to overcome merely utilitarian arguments.

Peter Craigie Memorial Seminar

White Christian Racism Through the Eyes of the African-American Literary Tradition

Tuesday October 30th | 3:00 p.m. | ST 132

This talk draws upon over a dozen classic and contemporary novels by significant African American authors. It interrogates these novels by asking a single, highly significant, question: What does white Christian racism look like from the perspective of these novels? The talk quotes extensively from these novels to offer an answer to the question posed to them. The overall pattern offered in these novels describes white Christian racism as characterized by moral degradation, religious impotence, idolatry and perceptual blindness. Lessons for Christian ethics today are suggested.

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Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee (Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary, New York) is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University in Georgia. One of the premier Christian ethicists in the world, he is the author or editor of over twenty books, including Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust, Kingdom Ethics, The Sacredness of Human Life, Changing Our Mind, Still Christian, and the forthcoming Moral Leadership for a Divided Age. Dr. Gushee currently serves as President of the American Academy of Religion, and is the immediate Past-President of the Society of Christian Ethics. A husband, father, and grandfather, he lives with his family in Atlanta.

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