Quakerism 2017

Deb Schoman

The primary aim of this course is to study the faith, practice, and history of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to help students become better acquainted with the tradition that has shaped Friends Academy and continues to give it direction. Topics that will be covered during this course include: the founding Quakers, Meeting for Worship, the Inner Light, decision making by consensus, Quaker testimonies, and Quaker ideas in action. It is hoped that students will not only better understand Quakerism, but will be able to find a comfortable relationship to those aspects of it which are a part of everyday life at Friends Academy.

The course will be conducted on a discussion basis heavily dependent on student participation. Readings from The Cobblestone Magazine, pamphlets by the Friends Council on Education and Quaker informational videos and websites will be included in class. Class material will be organized as follows:

I. Introduction to the course

II. George Fox and fundamental Quaker Testimonies

III. Meeting for Worship and Quaker Practices

IV. Early American Quakers

V. Major Quaker Reform Movements and Quakers Today

Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to come to class ready to reflect, listen, learn, and grow. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions and are expected to show respect and consideration for each other. All of the work for this class will be completed during class therefore students will need to approach each of the classroom exercises with a positive attitude and a seriousness of purpose.

Assessment:

This is a pass/fail course. Students are expected to complete thoughtful short reflection responses. These will be assigned on a regular basis and time will be allotted for them to be completed in class. Students will also identify a topic of interest to explore, do research, and present their findings in class.