This course introduces students to the academic study of religion by focusing on how the element of religion has been used by humans to create conflict, and as a source for peace. The course is comparative in scope, focusing on the engaged Buddhism of Thich Nhat Hanh; the history of conflict and peace in Christianity and in Islam. Students will discuss teachings, interpret passages from sacred texts and discuss contemporary issues about religion, conflict and peace; and grapple with religion, terrorism, resource shortages, and interfaith partnerships. The class will be a mixture of lectures, videos, and group discussions.