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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

PROGRAM IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521

June 14, 1985

Walter Capps
Department of Religious Studies
University of California
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Walter,

I read the LA Times with interest the day your course was featured. My best recollection now is that the course was entitled "American Religion and Vietnam" -- I do remember clearly the enrollment statistic of 900! Amazing. The widespread interest in this topic is obvious, isn't it.

I received a call this week from Lynn Meister, a disabled Vietnam Veteran, who cited this article and asked if something like that could be taught here at UCR. I'm not clear that it can, but one way of getting clarity on such a question, of course, is to gather information. To that end, I write to ask if you would be willing to send me any materials, advice, bibliographical recommendations, and the like, so that I might reflect on this request. I would not, of course, duplicate your course. Seeing your syllabus, handouts, resources, would however enable me to see what resources are available and what issues are appropriate for discussion. I would also be pleased for any of your own thoughts now that the course is over: what worked, what didn't work, what the goals of such a course are or ought to be and what they are not and ought not to be. Perhaps at some point we could talk about these matters on the phone, if you are willing.

For now, all I need are some facts in hand. It may be that in my course on "Peace and War" (due to be taught next winter) I would include a section on Vietnam, rather than devote a whole course to it. By the way, you might be interested to know that our Program in Religious Studies has invited Daniel Berrigan to Riverside to be a Regents' Lecturer for a month in the 85-86 academic year. We have not yet received his response, and are living in the hope that it is positive. I did speak to him before placing him in nomination, and he was quite open to the idea.

I hope you are well and your summer a good one. Thank you for sending me anything you can on the course on religion and Vietnam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June".

June O'Connor
Chair and Associate Professor