NYU Reynolds Program in Social Entrepreneurship  
2012-2013 “Social Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century”  
Speaker Series

Cornel West  
University Professor  
Philosopher  
Influential Intellectual

CORNEL WEST is a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual. He is a Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice at Union Theological Seminary and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. He has also taught at Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris. Cornel West graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard in three years and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy at Princeton. He has written 20 books and has edited 13. He is best known for his classics Race Matters and Democracy Matters, and his memoir, Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud. He appears frequently on Bill Maher, The Colbert Report, CNN and C-Span as well as on his dear Brother, Tavis Smiley’s PBS TV Show. He is also co-host of the popular radio show “Smiley & West” heard on PRI around the country. The co-hosts have recently co-authored the book titled The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto. The new book is a game-changing text on economic injustice in America.

He made his film debut in The Matrix – and was the commentator (with Ken Wilbur) on the official trilogy released in 2004. He also has appeared in over 25 documentaries and films including Examined Life, Call & Response, Sidewalk and Stand.

Last, he has made three spoken word albums including Never Forget, collaborating with Prince, Jill Scott, Andre 3000, Talib Kweli, KRS-One and the late Gerald Levert. His spoken word interludes were featured on Terence Blanchard’s Choices (which won the Grand Prix in France for the best Jazz Album of the year of 2009), The Cornel West Theory’s Second Rome, Raheem DeVaughn’s Grammy-nominated Love & War: Masterpeace, and most recently on Bootsy Collins’ The Funk Capital of the World. In short, Cornel West has a passion to communicate to a vast variety of publics in order to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. – a legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.
Irshad Manji  
Founder and Director  
Moral Courage Project

IRSHAD MANJI is Founder and Director of the Moral Courage Project at New York University. This multi-media program equips people to become gutsy global citizens.

As a faithful Muslim, Irshad puts moral courage into practice. Her latest book, Allah, Liberty & Love, is a guide to reconciling faith and freedom in a world raging with repressive dogmas. O, The Oprah Magazine, describes Allah, Liberty & Love as “an audacious, thoughtful call for people of all religions to move beyond hate, fear and intolerance.”

Irshad’s previous book is the international bestseller, The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim’s Call for Reform in Her Faith. It has been published in 31 languages, including Arabic. In-between her books, Irshad created the Emmy-nominated PBS documentary, Faith Without Fear.

Her books and films have been banned by certain governments, which explains Irshad’s strategic use of social media – from online translations and study guides to a virtual team of advisors who answer the public’s questions about how to live with moral courage.

This spring, Irshad is launching Moral Courage TV, a web-based channel that tells the stories of morally courageous people worldwide. Partnered with Google, Moral Courage TV will be translated and distributed in several languages.

The World Economic Forum identifies Irshad as a Young Global Leader. The Jakarta Post in Indonesia – the world’s largest Muslim country – has selected her as one of three Muslim women making a positive change in Islam today. Most recently, the New York Society for Ethical Culture has given Irshad its highest distinction: The Ethical Humanist Award.