

PROSPECTUS

RECU 60043 Interreligious Dialogue

Three Semester Hours

Tuesdays, 6:15–8:45 pm, MOR 309

Instructor: David R. Brockman, Ph.D.

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:

As the U.S. grows more religiously diverse, people of faith find themselves rubbing shoulders with religious others more often than ever before. This course is designed to help students develop perspectives and tools for engaging in meaningful, mutually transformative dialogue with religious others in today's religious, cultural, and political context. The course examines the history and development of Christian thought about other religions, as well as the concept of interreligious dialogue in general. The course then focuses on how Christians can engage in dialogue with four major world religions—Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. This will entail exploring those traditions as potential bearers of ultimate meaning, as well as studying their historical origins and developments, and their contemporary significance. The course will pay particular attention to dialogue with Muslims in the context of widespread Islamophobia. Students will listen deeply to the witness of religious others, reflect theologically on that witness, develop their own theological position on interreligious relations, and engage in dialogue with one other religious tradition.

Class Procedures:

Lectures, discussions, and student presentations.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions.
2. Oral presentations on supplemental readings (10 min.).
3. **Interreligious Relations in the News:** Periodically, each student will bring to class one news item from the past two weeks that highlights religious diversity in contemporary U.S. society. Each student should be prepared to very briefly summarize her news item, and if possible, draw connections with themes covered in the course.
4. **Dialogue Paper:** Each student will dialogue with another religious tradition (the “dialogue partner”) on one theological, cultural, or political issue (e.g., salvation, abortion, economic injustice). The student will research the position taken on that issue by her own religious tradition and by the dialogue partner, compare and contrast the two positions, and identify what the two traditions can learn from each other (2000-2500 words).

⇒⇒⇒Texts:

1. David R. Brockman and Ruben L. F. Habito, *The Gospel among Religions: Christian Ministry, Theology, and Spirituality in a Multifaith World* (Orbis, 2010). ISBN: 978-1-57075-899-7. Price: \$ 36.00.

2. Barker, Gregory A., ed. *Jesus in the World's Faiths: Leading Thinkers from Five Religions Reflect on His Meaning* (Orbis, 2005). ISBN: 978-1-57075-573-6. Price: \$ 21.00.
3. Paul F. Knitter, *Introducing Theologies of Religions* (Orbis, 2002). ISBN: 978-1-57075-419-7. Price: \$ 25.00.
4. Beckerlegge, Gwilym, ed. *The World Religions Reader*, 2nd ed. (Routledge, 2001). ISBN: 978-0-415-24749-8. Price: \$ 47.95.

Other readings will be available online or on reserve in the Mary Couets Burnett Library.

Grading Procedures:

Class Participation	10%
Oral Presentations	20%
News Items	20%
Deep Listening Paper	50%