

UCOR 143-02: GLOBAL & CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Online (Zoom) – 12:15-1:30pm – T / R, Fall 2020

Instructor: Greg Jones · Email: jonesg3@duq.edu · Time for Students: All Online on Zoom, 9-2PM, M, W, F

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome! This course is an undergraduate survey of world religions. UCOR-143-02 is designed to acquaint undergraduate students with a variety of religious characteristics of various areas of the world. We will use readings, lectures, sacred texts, presentations, and films to promote interest and highlight religious themes, but these are not intended as exhaustive religious surveys. Students will learn what they need to do to hear and be heard in a world that asks them to “stand up, speak up, but speak wisely.”

When you learn about world religions, you will begin to learn valuable habits that will enable you to talk to people whose worldviews are radically different from your own. One way this class will help you is to prepare you for those conversations, which are inevitable in our highly polarized, social media-influenced times, whether or not one holds a personal religious faith. Intentionally cultivating these habits of conversation, listening, and friendships is the second way this class will help you; these habits can help to open up new and excellent partnerships that help religious and non-religious people face the pressing issues of our time together.

We will learn about world religions in our time together in class, which will *normally* have three-parts:

- a. Start with preconceptions, past experiences, cultural example, or current news of one world religion. (I might begin the class asking, “What comes to mind when you think of Hinduism?”)
- b. Study the key characteristics of the world religion that we read about in *Encounters in Faith*. (This is the “lecture” part of class, which summarizes the reading and provides supplemental information)
- c. Appreciate how the world religion fits in among the other religions, via answering the Review and the “In-Depth Questions” from *Encounters in Faith*. (This is the “group” part of class, where we answer discussions together, and scale how various religious views resonate with us)

2. GOALS FOR STUDENTS IN THIS COURSE

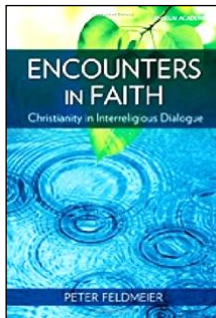
This course will hone your *abilities, skills, knowledge, and attitudes* related to world religions:

Ability: Understand one’s own view of God, humanity, and the universe.

Skill: Talk about one’s own perspective in a way that is informed by people of other faiths.

Knowledge: Learn to identify the sacred texts, founders, and prayer practices of major world religions.

Attitude: Develop a friendly appreciation of the commonalities and distinctions of world religions.



3. CLASSROOM TEXTS

- a. **(Required):** Peter, Feldmeier. *Encounters in Faith: Christianity in Interreligious Dialogue*. Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-59982-031-6. (available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble).
- b. **(Excerpts available via Blackboard/Online):** Boghossian, Peter and James Lindsay. *How to Have Impossible Conversations: A Very Practical Guide*. McLaren, Brian D. *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World’s Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian*.
- c. Religious News Service: <https://religionnews.com>