

Globethics

Interreligious Cooperation for Peace - Religious Studies

Course programme



Interreligious Cooperation for Peace

Religious Studies

www.globethics.net/academy/interreligious-cooperation-for-peace-religious-studies

Overview

Duration: 8 weeks

Study method: online

Workload: 70 hours including five 1.5 hour live sessions (7.5 hours total)

Language: English
ECTS: 3 ECTS (6 CATS or 1.5 USC) credits

What you will learn

- Unit 1 What is religion?
 - Unit 2 Introduction to Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam
 - Unit 3 Introduction to Karmic Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism
 - Unit 4 Multilateral Deep Listening: How religious or non-religious identities and faiths inform who we are as individuals and communities
 - Unit 5 A Hermeneutics of Sacred Texts: How reading holy scriptures shapes worldviews, visions and interactions
 - Unit 6 Economic and Political Instrumentalisation of Religions: An analytical and competence-building perspective
 - Unit 7 Religious Literacy and Disengagement from Religious Extremism
 - Unit 8 Interreligious Relations and Positive Models of Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
- Summative Evaluation (for certification track only)

In many places in the world today, religions seem to be playing larger roles in their societies and in politics than they have for decades.

How do we as educators, citizens, clergy, laypeople, understand what is going on? What is the role or roles that religions play today in helping shape the ways in which individuals and communities understand themselves? How do the ways we as individuals understand ourselves and our groups in our societies shape our individual and collective actions in the world?

What are some of the root sources of conflict between the religions and the societies in which we live? What tools do we have available to help us lower the hostility and increase the mutual understanding between other societal groups and religious groups or between religious groups themselves, in societies in which they are mutually suspicious of each other or even openly fighting?

This course addresses not only these major themes and questions, but it also addresses the specific ethical questions and experiences that people enrolled in the course bring from their own contexts, and it provides tools not only to understand, but also to move proactively towards the construction of more peaceful relations.

The robust conversations between students, often from very different contexts, but grappling with similar questions, is an important and well-loved component of the course, since students learn so much not just from the course materials and professors, but from engaging each other, across religions, types of societies, and professions.

The course begins with an overview of a number of the major world religions. It looks at the hermeneutical approaches to sacred texts of these religions, and considers how the interpretation of these texts can and often does play a major role in influencing the reader's perceptions of self and others, as well as the reader's understanding of the larger society.

The course examines ideas, situations, histories, social conditions, attitudes and behaviours that often lead to conflict between religious groups as well as those that can lead to peaceful cooperation between religious groups, towards working together to build peaceful and just relations and communities.

Course participants will have ample opportunities during the course to sharpen the skills that contribute to thinking critically about these issues. Participants will also learn and practice the method and skills of deep listening to others, across religious, cultural and other divides so that they may better understand others, and how they see the world and engage in it.

This course is designed as the first of a three-part course series on interreligious understanding and peaceful cooperation. Each of the three courses consists of 8 units. This course focuses on religious studies, the second course focuses on cultural studies and the third course focuses on ethical studies.

The three courses build on each other and there

"The course gave me space to engage, think and reflect on the cross cultural interactions religion plays in our daily lives. Discussing with the professors and other students really opened my eyes to how best to engage with different religious communities."

Parfait, Pastor, Cameroon

are cross-references from one course to the others. Each course however can fruitfully be taken separately.

Course Instructors

The course is currently taught by Meera Baidur and Heidi Hadsell.

Dr. Baidur is currently an Associate Professor at RV University in India. She specializes in Indian Philosophy, Hindu Studies, Philosophy of Science and Environmental Studies.

Dr. Hadsell was the president of Hartford Seminary until April 2018 and was director of the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Bossey, Switzerland. One of her main topics of interest is the research and teaching is political ethics and global ethics.

Course objectives

- Recognise the different dimensions of religious worldviews, rituals, and practices
- Interpret religion(s) from a critical perspective
- Explain the role of religion(s) in peacebuilding

More information

Entry requirements:

- English language proficiency at least at intermediary-advanced level;
- Two to three years of higher education studies, usually at Bachelor degree level, and/or an equivalent professional experience.

Course registrations and registration guidelines:

On the Globethics online registration page: www.globethics.net/academy/course-registration.

Language: English.

ECTS: This course has been accredited for the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and is subject to the 3 ECTS, 6 CATS, and 1.5 USC credits avocational education system in the field of Individual Courses. Learn more: <https://www.globethics.net/accreditations#ects>.

Course fees:

Two course options:

- Basic track option, without final assignment and certificate of attendance, is available free of charge.
- Certification track version costs 300.00, 250.00, 150.00, or 100.00 USD according to the [World's Bank Country Income Classification](#).

Information and assistance:

- academy@globethics.net or
- Lidia Sloutskovski, Academic Office Manager: sloutskovski@globethics.net
- Allison Pierok, Academy & Project Assistant: pierok@globethics.net

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