

Globethics

Interreligious Cooperation for Peace - Cultural Studies

Course programme



Interreligious Cooperation for Peace Cultural Studies

www.globethics.net/academy/interreligious-cooperation-for-peace-cultural-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 total

What you will learn

- Unit 1 What is culture?
- Unit 2 Language diversity
- Unit 3 Authority contested
- Unit 4 Time, organisation and community
- Unit 5 Understanding gender
- Unit 6 Instrumentalisation of identity
- Unit 7 Case studies on Cultural Studies
- Unit 8 Religious geography and epistemology

Summative Evaluation (for certification track only)

Human beings are thoughtful by nature and seek to explain the things they see around them. To make sense of the world they find themselves in, they rely on fundamental ideas or foundational knowledge that we can call beliefs.

Language, perceptions of leadership, gender, time, and space play significant roles in forming and expressing identities shaped by specific cultures. Religions and cultures are clearly two separate entities and spheres of human interaction. While this is indeed the case, it is also the case that in many, if not most, places around the world, religions and cultures, or elements of each of them, are also inextricably connected to each other.

Indeed, over time the many ways religions and cultures have interacted and changed each other over time are taken for granted and not closely examined. This is surprising, especially because both religion and culture are central elements in the shaping of human individuals and groups.

This course invites participants to take a close look at the many ways religions and cultures intersect with and influence each other. The things we consider during this course include for example, some of the ways in which religious practices and structures of authority shape ideas and expectations about what legitimate secular authority should

look and act like. In turn, the course also considers how changing ideas of authority, and who can have authority in the secular world, can and often challenge, help shape, or change religious ideas of authority. For example, in many places and in many religious traditions today women have more possibilities to have leadership and the authority that goes with it. This is in part perhaps because of changing understandings of religious scripture and practice, and also in part because the secular ideas of women in authority have changed.

Another element in this interaction between cultures and religions that we see in many places around the world today, is the decision among some political figures to adopt and use religious images, and religious ideas and language to manipulate people in ways that serve their own political ends. That is, in unscrupulous hands, religion, and religious communities and beliefs, can be instrumentalized, which is to say used, as a tool, by others, to acquire power, influence etc. Also, in some places religious leaders themselves engage in the same process of the instrumentalization of their religious ideas to achieve their own political goals.

Because there are so many complex and different dynamics between religions and cultures around the world today, this course concentrates on the examination of certain case studies of contemporary events and dynamics that are examples of these dynamics. In discussions, students also contribute their own examples from their own contexts and invite the other course participants to examine and discuss their examples with them, and to discern with them what to do about them.

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

"I find myself waiting for every weekly meeting with renewed excitement, reading the textbook, and learning about new ideas"

Eilean, Colombia

course focuses on ethical studies. The first part of this course programme looked at religious studies.

The three courses build on each other and there 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

- Discuss critically how religion(s) and culture(s) are interrelated
- Identify and examine how cultural views and practices impact peacebuilding
- Translate the impact of culture(s) into your context

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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