

THEO-650 Religious Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Fall 2024

Instructor:

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MODALITY: Hyflex (in-person and/or synchronous online)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course explores some of the key challenges and opportunities that the reality of religious pluralism offers for faithful Christian witness today. We examine the cultural, political, religious, and other factors that—both historically and today—shape the belief systems, practices, and interaction of the major world religions, including indigenous/ancestral religious traditions. We will focus in-depth attention on Judaism and Islam (along with Christianity, the “Abrahamic” faiths). We then study the major Christian responses to interreligious engagement (comparative theologies, theologies of religion), probe the strengths and weaknesses of each, and examine the value of emerging, alternative models for Christian interreligious dialogue and collaboration. Throughout the course, we will make room for in-person dialogue with representatives from different religious communities, focusing especially on Jewish and Muslim leaders.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

De Lange, Nicholas. *An Introduction to Judaism*. Introduction to Religion series. Second ed. Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0521735049. List price (Amazon): \$40.99.

Knitter, Paul F. *Introducing Theologies of Religion*. Orbis Books, 2002. ISBN: 978-1570754197. List price (Amazon): \$28.00.

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity*. HarperOne, 2004. ISBN: 978-0060730642. List price (Amazon): \$17.99.

Partridge, Christopher. *A Short Introduction to World Religions*. Third Ed. Fortress Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1506445953. List price (Amazon): \$49.00

Additional reading, including primary readings from sacred texts, will be uploaded on Moodle.