

## HT640: BUILDING BRIDGES (CHRISTIANITY and WORLD RELIGIONS)

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

On-line Course: <http://udonline.dbq.edu>

Spring Semester 2018

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### **Course Description**

This seminar will provide an introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Daoism, Judaism, and Islam, the world's major organized religions, and their complex relationship with Christianity. It will examine cultural and historical developments, religious commitments and practices, and their engagement with those of other faiths. The course will also seek to provide not only awareness and understanding of these great world religions, but will challenge us, as Christians, to find ways that we can address the issues that separate us, to seek common ground with the values that we share, and to bear a Christian witness that winsomely engages our neighbors and builds bridges for faith and friendships of peace.

### **Course Objectives**

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify the major elements and historical backgrounds of each religion studied.
2. Evaluate the complex interactions between Christians and those of other faith commitments, with their underlying cultural values and assumptions, and their impact on current relations.
3. Evaluate theologically the role of Christian congregations in relationship to those of other communities and the call to participation in the *missio Dei*.

### **Required Texts**

Cooper, Derek, *Christianity and World Religions: An Introduction to the World's Major Faiths*

Jones, E. Stanley, *Christ of the Indian Road*

Patel, Eboo, *Acts of Faith, The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*

Ramachandra, Vinod, *Faiths in Conflict? Christian Integrity in a Multicultural World*

Volf, Miroslav, *Allah: A Christian Response*