

Monday and Wednesday, 9:30-10:45
Young-chan Ro

E-mail: yro@nd.edu

Office Hours: M.W. 11am-12pm

This course explores comparative and cross-cultural aspects of religion; an investigation of the nature of conflict; an attempt for dialogue among religions and understanding religious pluralism. This course is **not** a world religions course, a study of various religious traditions of the world. Rather, this course assumes that students taking this course are already familiar with the basic ideas and elementary knowledge of some major religious traditions of the world. Although the course will pay attention to the comparative aspects of religious traditions, the primary concern for this course will be the examination of a philosophical and theoretical foundation for religious pluralism and dialogue.

Goals:

To achieve a better understanding of “other” than one’s own cultural and religious tradition

To gain the necessary knowledge of issues relating cultural diversity and religious pluralism

To be able to articulate intellectual and theoretical approach to religious conflict and dialogue

Objectives:

To train how to critically examine and analyze issues confronting contemporary world in relation to the dimension of religion, culture, and values

To be able engage in a dialogical discuss in the light of pluralism

To be able to write in expressing his/her own ideas from the global perspective with cosmic awareness

Texts

Required:

Panikkar, R., *The Experience of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006

Panikkar, R., *The Intrareligious Dialogue*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999

Panikkar, R., *Invisible Harmony*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995

Knitter, Paul, *Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian*. Oxford: Oneworld Press, 2009

John B. Cobb Jr. and Ward M. McAfee, (ed.), *The Dialogue Comes of Age*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010

Recommended:

Panikkar, R., *Invisible Harmony. Essays on Contemplation and Responsibility*.
Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Panikkar, R., *The Rhythm of Being*. Maryknoll: Orbis Press, 2010.

Requirements:

1. Class participation and contributions (10%)
2. A reflection paper based on readings, lectures, and discussion (20%)
3. A midterm paper (35%)
4. A research paper discussing methodological and philosophical issues dealing with pluralism and religious diversity, approximately 15 pages (35%)
 - “In” (incomplete) is given to the students who request in writing two weeks prior to the final exam date. Permission is given based on legitimate reasons.

Topics and Readings

Caution about reading: Panikkar’s writing is dense and requires a slow and careful reading with many dictionaries on philosophy, world religions, theology, etymology, etc.

In some cases, multiple readings may be required. Do not be fooled by the quantity of the readings of Panikkar, the number of pages, but the content of the reading will require a lot more time than you might expect.

Weeks

Reading Assignments:

Intra-religious Dialogue

1. The Rhetoric of Dialogue; Dialogical Dialogue, 1-40
2. Faith and Belief; The Rules of the Game, 41-71
3. Epoche and Growth, 73-102
4. Ecumenical; Intrareligious; Buddhist and Christian; Hindu-Christian, 103-146
5. Pluralsim. *Invisible Harmony*, 53-101
6. Introduction: human religiosity and being religious

The Experience of God: icons of the mystery

7. Speaking and the Experience of God, 11-59.
8. Christian Experience of God, 61-141

The Dialogue Comes of Age

9. Christian response to dialogue, 1-4
10. Jews and Christians, 41-85
11. Islam and Christians, 87-130
12. Buddha for Christians, 131-168 ,
- 13-14 *Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian* 1-166, 167-217

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Notre Dame is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

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