



**TH 612 Theology of Religious Manyness  
A Hartford Seminary Online Course  
Preliminary Syllabus  
Fall 2020**

**Instructor:**

Lucinda Mosher, Th.D.  
Faculty Associate in Interfaith Studies  
[lmosher@hartsem.edu](mailto:lmosher@hartsem.edu) | Cell: (646) 335-2951

**Course Description**

Aware that the very category *religion* is the object of intense and extended scholarly debate, let us say (for the moment) that *religions* are constellations of beliefs, practices, institutions, and more by which a meaningful world is established, maintained, and celebrated. Such constellations are many. A *theology of religious manyness* is a formal, systematic attempt (informed by careful consideration of sacred writings, doctrines, and practices) by adherents of one religion to make sense of the phenomenon of religious diversity: the reality that other religions exist. This asynchronous-online course facilitates an investigation of a range of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist theologies of religious manyness—attending to various theoretical and methodological concerns as it does. In the process, it draws on scholarship conducted under the umbrellas of *theology of religions* and *theology of religious diversity* as it considers such topics as the construction of *otherness*; the notion of *religion* itself; typologies by which attitudes toward religious difference are sorted; the connection between the disciplines of theology of religious diversity, comparative theology, and interreligious theology; and theologies of specific interreligious relationships (e.g. Buddhist-Muslim).

**Beware:** this is *not* an introductory “world religions” course! While suggestions for introductory reading on Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism will be provided on the course website, such material is not presented formally. Rather, this course provides guidance in examining various Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist approaches to assessing the meaning and value of other religions and (sometimes) the destiny of their adherents.

**Required textbooks**

Brill, Alan. *Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. ISBN 0230340253

Khalil, Mohammad Hassan, ed., *Between Heaven and Hell: Islam, Salvation, and the Fate of Others*. Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0-19-99451-2

Schmidt-Leukel, Perry, ed. *Buddhist Attitudes to Other Religions*. EOS, 2008. ISBN 9783830673514.

Please expect to read most chapters in the required textbooks. Expect also to read many other essays chosen by your professor from a wide range of sources.