

**Dialogue of Abrahamic Faiths  
Toward Understanding and  
Partnership  
January 2-7, 2024 at  
United Lutheran Seminary  
Philadelphia campus**



**WASHINGTON  
THEOLOGICAL  
CONSORTIUM**

*Crossroads of Faith, Learning and Dialogue*

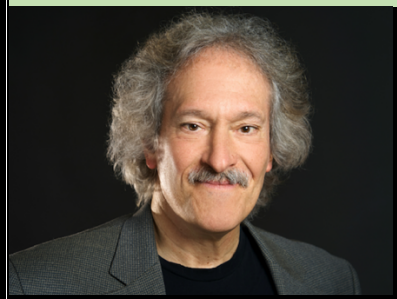
This unique course is an intensive, residential course that focuses on the academic study of sacred texts and practices in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam for seminarians and religious education students from each of these traditions. The focus will be on comparing and contrasting these great traditions toward greater understanding and areas of partnership. It also includes sessions about the shared challenges of being a faith leader, and visits to each other's houses of worship. The course is co-sponsored by the *International Institute of Islamic Thought* (IIIT). The five days allow students to build interfaith friendships that can last for many years. There is no cost for the program, room or board, and a travel stipend will be offered. Depending on their school's policies, students can take the course for 2-3 credits, with tuition. Applications should be made by October 15 to your Academic Dean for their endorsement. The core faculty is featured here.



**Dr. Sandra Collins** is the Professor of Sacred Scripture and Director of Information Services at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of St. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh. She has taught at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and Carnegie Mellon University. She earned a PhD in Religious Studies and an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MA from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Collins has written numerous articles on Eastern Christianity, the Hebrew Scriptures, and the New Testament. She is deeply committed to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue for all religious leaders.



**Dr. Gulsum Kuchuksari** teaches in the Department of Critical Race, Gender and Culture Studies at American University. She has taught Islam, Arabic, and Middle Eastern Studies at seminary and college campuses, for years, and she has served as a chaplain in hospitals and colleges. She earned her PhD in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Arizona. She has a Masters in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary. She writes on the intersection of religion and history in late Ottoman Empire and Turkey, as well as on American Muslim identities.



**Dr. Ori Z. Soltes** is Professor of Jewish Studies at the Center for Jewish Civilization at Georgetown University. He is the former Director of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum. As co-founding Director of the Holocaust Art Restitution Project he spent 20 years investigating Nazi-plundered art. Dr. Soltes is author or editor of 28 books and scores of articles. Recent volumes include *Our Sacred Signs* on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim art, *The Ashen Rainbow: Essays on the Arts and the Holocaust*; *Christianity and Islam: Searching for Oneness*, and *Tradition and Transformation* regarding Jewish art.

For more information contact Dr. Larry Golemon at [lgolemon@washtheocon.org](mailto:lgolemon@washtheocon.org)

## Daily Schedule and Curriculum: Dialogue of Abrahamic Faiths, January 2024

This course will explore all three Abrahamic faiths through a different theme every day. Through presentations, small group work, and ongoing discussion participants will actively engage these topics through various media. Similarities between the traditions will be celebrated and differences will be explored with honesty and respect. The aim is for students to deepen the understanding of their own faith tradition, to share it more ably, and to learn skills for ongoing interfaith work in their vocations.

<b>Tuesday, January 2, 2024</b>	Registration, Room assignments, Dinner Introductions, Icebreakers, and <i>Approaches to Interfaith Dialogue</i>
<b>Wednesday, January 3</b>	Theme: <i>Revelation and Interpretation</i> How is Revelation viewed in distinct ways, both within each of these traditions and between them? Sacred texts, holy figures, and sacred practices will be explored through various interpretations.
<b>Thursday, January 4</b>	Theme: <i>Art and Symbols</i> What forms of sacred art and symbolism are valued in each of the traditions, and how do they treat these differently? Seeing symbol and art in calligraphy, liturgical actions, text illumination, painting, and architecture will be explored.
<b>Friday, January 5</b>	Theme: <i>Mysticism and Spirituality</i> What forms of spiritual practice and insight are cultivated in these traditions? Are some traditions within each of the faiths more mystical than others? And what are the ends of mystical and spiritual experience? (visit to a mosque for prayer this day)
<b>Saturday, January 6</b>	Theme: <i>Modernity and Religious Dilemmas</i> How do each of the traditions engage modernity in its various forms. Are their resistant elements to modern science, gender relations, and colonialism in each faith, and are there more accommodating ones? What political and social tensions arise from these various responses? (visit to a synagogue for prayer this day)
<b>Sunday January 7, 2024</b>	Final conclusions and discoveries are shared. Evaluations. Final farewell ceremony. (visit to a church this morning or one evening). Final Lunch together.

**APPLY TODAY** as spots are limited! Use attached application form, get approval from you Dean, and email it to the WTC office: [lgolemon@washtheocon.org](mailto:lgolemon@washtheocon.org) Call 202-832-2675 with questions.  
**Applications due by October 30!** Notifications of acceptance will be given by November 5.