

**Dialogue of Abrahamic Faiths:
Understanding and Partnership**
May 14-19, 2026 at
Virginia Theological Seminary
Alexandria, VA



WASHINGTON
THEOLOGICAL
CONSORTIUM

Crossroads of Faith, Learning and Dialogue

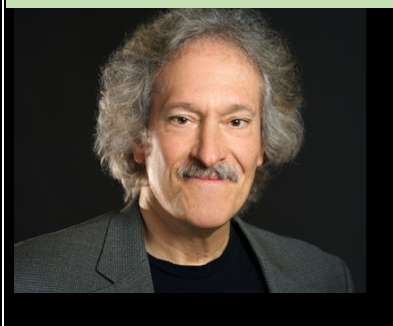
This unique course is an intensive, residential course that focuses on the academic study of sacred texts and practices in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam for seminarians and religious education students from each of these traditions. The focus will be on comparing and contrasting these great traditions 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 five nights and 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 (up to \$500). Depending on their school's policies, students can take the course for 1.5-3 credits, with tuition paid to their school. Applications should be made by to your Academic Dean for their endorsement. The core faculty is featured here.



Dr. Sandra Collins is the Professor of Sacred Scripture and acting Academic Dean at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. She has taught at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and Carnegie Mellon University. She earned a PhD in Religious Studies, 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 is a professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies who teaches in the Department of Critical Race, Gender and Culture at American University. She teaches at theological schools throughout the US, including Virginia Theological Seminary and Wesley Theological Seminary. She earned her PhD in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Arizona and an MA in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary. She has also served as a Muslim and interfaith chaplain at college campuses and hospitals.



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
Limited to 24 students. **Applications due by April 8, 2026**

**2025 Students from nine states
and 13 schools in all three
traditions.**



Daily Schedule and Curriculum: Dialogue of Abrahamic Faiths, May 2026

This course will explore all three Abrahamic faiths, with a different theme every day. Through presentations, small group work, and ongoing discussion, participants will actively engage these topics through various media. The goals are for students to deepen their understanding of other faith traditions, to share their own more clearly, and to learn skills for ongoing interfaith dialogue and bridge-building in their vocations.

Thursday, May 14: Welcome and Orientation

Afternoon Registration, Dinner, Introductions, Icebreakers, and Approaches to Interfaith Dialogue

Friday, May 15: Revelation and Interpretation

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. (Includes visit to a mosque.)

Saturday, May 16: Art, Symbols, and Ritual

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. (Includes visit to a Synagogue.)

Sunday, May 17: Mysticism and Spirituality

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? (Includes visit to a church.)

Monday, May 18: Contemporary Challenges in all Three Traditions

This day will explore the similarities and differences of contemporary issues related to religion and public life all three traditions. Issues can include religious nationalism, the middle East, and/or race and gender.

Tuesday, May 19: Conclusion, evaluations, farewell ceremony, and final lunch. .

Applications are due by April 8 . Use attached form, get approval from your Dean, and email it to the Consortium office: lgolemon@washtheocon.org Notifications of acceptance will be given by April 15. Call 202-832-2675 with any questions. This course is made possible by support from the Heritage Education Trust in honor of Sheik Taha Jabir Al-Alwani.

