

**SCS 514 World Religions**  
**2 Credits/3 CEUs**

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<b>Required Texts</b>	Bowker, John. <i>World Religions: The Great Faiths Explained &amp; Explored</i> . NY: DK Publishing, 2006.
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Websites TBA.
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Stone, Howard and J.O Duke. <i>How to Think Theologically</i> , Second Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2006.

**SCS 514 World Religions (2hrs/3units)**

**Course Description**

Exploration of the many different ways human beings throughout history and around the globe have answered questions like: What is sacred; what does my life depend upon? What is worth living – or dying – for? If this is basically a good cosmos, why do people suffer? Answers will display how different religious traditions have identified the basic problems and meanings of existence. Christian perspectives on interfaith dialogue will be explored.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the principle tenets of the major faiths of humanity.
2. Explain how each religion encountered in the course understands the sacred interaction between humanity and the cosmos.
3. From a cross-cultural perspective, evaluate how effectively various religious traditions handle the problem of suffering and evil (*theodicy*).
4. How "interfaith" should New Thought churches attempt to become? Develop and defend a tentative personal preference.
5. Sketch a method for engaging in dialogue with non-Christian traditions.
6. Develop a theology of prayer drawing on resources from global religions traditions.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity and the Diploma in Unity Ministry.: Foundational Knowledge: Demonstrate professional competency through the integration of knowledge and methodology in the areas of scripture, theology, historical studies, communication, pastoral studies, leadership and administration.

**DETAILED SYLLABUS:** To be published two weeks prior to the first day of the course.

**SUGGESTED PREPARATION:** Read John Bowker's *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explained & Explored*, pp. 6-17, 199-207.