

Process Theology and the World's Wisdom Traditions

Summer 2018

TPS-3036

Claremont School of Theology

Professors:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

No doubt, Process theology has been developed most fully within the framework of progressive Christian (liberal) theology. As Gary Dorrien notes, "Whiteheadian process theology became the leading liberal school in the second half of the twentieth century" (*The Making of American Liberal Theology*, 190). However, many of the core principles of process thought are also found within other major Wisdom Traditions. This course will examine how process thought intersects with, and takes shape through 5 of the world's religions (Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Christianity); exploring ways in which process notions of power, knowledge, freedom, ultimacy, love, etc. are being expressed in each tradition. The course will be supplemented by guest speakers representing each of these faith traditions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this class will be able to:

1. Articulate the fundamental ideas of process theology.
2. Write perceptively about the fundamental ideas of process theology in the context of one or more major world religion.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

1. **Final Paper:** A theological essay exploring process themes in the context of one of the Wisdom Traditions covered in class. (assesses SLO #1, 2)

COURSE TEXTS:

Note: Additional required reading may be provided via hyperlink or pdf.

Cobb, John B, Jr, ed. *Religions in the Making: Whitehead and the Wisdom Traditions of the World* (Cascade Books, 2012)