This curricular module explores how interreligious dialogue can address pressing social and political issues, highlighting the creative potential of working across religious and cultural differences. Chapters from “Power: Divine and Human: Christian and Muslim Perspectives” [PDFs] explore Christian and Muslim perspectives on power through analysis of foundational religious texts. The book is based on the “Sixteenth Building Bridges Seminar” [video], a convening of scholars who explored power in Christianity and Islam.

**KEY THEMES**

Below, you can explore more resources on interreligious dialogue on global issues, with additional materials on practical and theological approaches to interreligious dialogue.

These materials are designed to engage students with the following issues:

- interreligious dialogue as a tool for peacebuilding, social justice, and service [“Interreligious Dialogue as a Form of Peacebuilding in Israel and Palestine,” video; Vita essay, Berkley Forum; Hussain essay, Berkley Forum; Halloran essay, Berkley Forum; “Pluralism in Practice,” video; Nxusani essay, Berkley Forum]

- the role of interreligious dialogue in higher education [Hollenbach article, PDF]


Instructors are encouraged to look through topics below [videos/PDFs/articles] and adapt these questions to their needs.
PRACTICAL APPROACHES

“Interreligious Dialogue as a Form of Peacebuilding in Israel and Palestine,” (2018) [video]
According to Rabbi Kronish, how was interreligious dialogue employed in the context of Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Discuss lessons learned from this model of interreligious dialogue and challenges for the future. [see 4:39-34:07]

“Interfaith: The Meeting Place of the Personal and the Political,” Olivia Vita (2017) [Berkley Forum]
In what ways are interfaith dialogue and action both personal and political? How might these complexities obstruct effective interfaith efforts?

What challenges to interfaith dialogue does the author identify? What may be potential solutions, and how can these help to shape dialogue?

What tensions in interfaith dialogue does the author identify? What are some potential strategies to mitigating these tensions?

“Pluralism in Practice: Interreligious Dialogue,” (2011) [video]
Discuss the students' perspectives on interreligious dialogue. Where do you agree or disagree? How do you feel the space for interreligious dialogue on campus has evolved, or remained the same, since these interviews?

“Searching for a Safe Space Where God Isn’t a Racist, Patriarchal, White Supremacist Homophobe,” Ayanda Nxusani (2016) [Berkley Forum]
How can religious services and gatherings become safe and inclusive spaces for all, particularly LGBTQ people? What might allyship look like in religious spaces?

THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

“Dialogue and Proclamation in Catholic Universities,”
David Hollenbach, La Civiltà Cattolica (2018) [PDF]
How has globalization shaped religious communities and traditions? What role could Catholic higher education play in these processes?
In what ways do universities, and Catholic universities in particular, serve as important spaces for interreligious and intercultural dialogue?

How does Pope Francis conceptualize interfaith dialogue, according to Rev. Indunil, and what is the role of mercy? [see 24:46-30:58]
What characterizes Bishop Younan's conception and approach to interreligious dialogue, following Pope Francis? [see 59:22-68:35]

How does the author critique the focus on dialogue? What are the challenges to measuring the “success” of dialogue?

What defines Pope Francis' approach to dialogue?

“The Global Religious Context of Human Fraternity,”
Todd Johnson (2019) [Berkley Forum]
How does Johnson characterize global Christian-Muslim relations, and how could interfaith dialogue help to build relationships and solidarity?

According to Philip Sheldrake, how has power been defined in Christian history and in Christian and Hebrew scriptures? [see 11:17-41:59]
According to Jonathan Brown, how is God’s power conceptualized in the Quran? [see 43:47-74:14]