The Interfaith Conversation
Exploring World Belief Systems
Engaged Learning for NIU Students, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members

WHAT
This series provides an opportunity for people to explore diverse belief systems used to make sense of the world and guide ethical behavior. The inaugural Interfaith Conversation series offers introductions to vital belief systems represented across the NIU community. We cannot cover every system all at once, but we start!

WHY
People are formed and informed by “cultures of belief.” While such systems of thinking and acting are unique there are similarities that enable us to have inter-belief discussions that broaden our “appreciative understanding.” It’s vital that we create the conditions for harmony in our interdependent societies. This sort of engagement is natural in the American context. E pluribus unum … Out of many, one.

FORMAT
Each seminar lasts 90 minutes
◊ Presentation delivered by a guest expert
◊ Q & A Discussion: How might you apply this new knowledge in your day-to-day lives?
◊ Closing, with a meditative reading from a text representing the presenter’s community of belief.

LOCATION & TIME
NIU Library Staff Lounge: Lower Level. Signs will provide direction.
Wednesday Evenings: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

SCHEDULE (subject to change)
January 28, 2015 Starting Inter-Belief/Inter-Faith Conversations
February 4, 2015 Introducing Judaism
February 11, 2015 Introducing Hinduism
February 18, 2015 Introducing Secular Humanism
February 25, 2015 Introducing Islam
March 4, 2015 Introducing Christianity

PARKING
Available in the Visitor’s Lot, just west of the Library.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
We welcome people from all communities of belief, as well as those who do not subscribe to a belief system. In our effort to facilitate productive engagements that expand understanding; we are guided by the following principles:
◊ We hold that each system of belief is grounded in time-tested wisdom; therefore we will not debate questions of truth or validity.
◊ We will promote discussion rooted in deep listening and mutual respect.
◊ We will consider how to utilize new knowledge to foster inter-belief and inter-faith behavior that celebrates “similarities within difference.”

For more information contact:
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Sponsored By
First- and Second-Year Experience, NIU University Libraries, University Honors Program, Outreach, Engagement & Regional Development, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Office of Student Engagement & Experiential Learning

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