

FOR PERSONS DETAILS,
REGISTRATION AND COURSE FEES

I would like to register for the Introduction to
the World's Faith Course:

TITLE	NAME
ADDRESS	
TOWN	
POSTCODE	
EMAIL	
TELEPHONE	
COURSE FEES: PLEASE SELECT:	
INDIVIDUAL	£75 <input type="checkbox"/>
CONCESSION	£55 <input type="checkbox"/>
DO YOU REQUIRE AN ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE? <input type="checkbox"/>	
NAME OF ORGANISATION IF ATTENDING FOR WORK PLACE OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL NEED	
ARE YOU HAPPY FOR EIFA TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT FUTURE EVENTS WHICH THEY ARE HOSTING?	
YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Signature.....

Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association,
St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4 BJ

Please forward your application and payment to this address.
Cheques should be made available to 'EIFA'

A Certificated Course for the General Public
and for Professionals with a Work Place Need

THIS COURSE IS ORGANISED BY:



Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association is a registered charity that works to promote inter-religious dialogue, mutual respect, understanding, co-operation, diversity, equal opportunity and peace within our richly diverse city and beyond. EIFA is a community of communities which comprises of 10 faith traditions present in Edinburgh. We have a rich and extensive events programme throughout the year. We also provide support, training and consultative services to Scottish Government, Local Authorities, Police and Health Services.



CONTACT DETAILS:

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An Introduction to the Heart of the World's Faiths



7th February – 11th April 2011

10 Weekly Evening Sessions
St John's Church Hall, Princes Street,
7.00pm-9.00pm



Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association
St John's Church, Princes Street,
Edinburgh EH2 4BJ





A Basic Introduction to the World's Faiths



Baha'i ♦ Buddhism ♦ Christianity ♦ Hinduism ♦ Jainism ♦ Islam ♦ Judaism ♦ Paganism ♦ Sikhism ♦ Zoroastrianism

7TH FEBRUARY – 11TH APRIL 2011
– 10 EVENING CLASSES



10 week series which explores 10 of the world's major faiths by inviting a Practitioner of each faith tradition to:

Introduce the basic concepts of their faith traditions using Prof. Whaling's Model

Explore what for them, is the Heart of their faith tradition

Explore their faith tradition's contribution to One Scotland many faiths, cultures & races

Lead the participants in a brief experience of ritual/meditation from their tradition

The Basic Concepts will be introduced using "A Model for Understanding Religion" by Prof. Frank Whaling, which he will introduce on the first night of the series.

This ten week course is an opportunity to gain a basic understanding of Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, Judaism, Paganism, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism and to reflect on the influence these faith traditions have made on the life of a practitioner and on Scottish culture.

The course is open to everyone and no prior knowledge of any faith tradition is required. You may be interested in participating purely from a personal interest perspective or from a work place benefit.

This course is an opportunity for people to better understand the faiths present in our community, our multi faith society and therefore develop or deepen knowledge, understanding and respect for this diversity on our door step. The sessions will include a presentation and discussion, with space for questions and reflection. This series has preparatory reading for each week. Course fees will include refreshments and the background reading material.

A MODEL FOR UNDERSTANDING RELIGIONS

Using Prof. Whaling's Comparative Model for Understanding each session will consider the following:

TRANSCENDENCE

Lying behind all religious traditions is a sense of the reality of transcendence. It has different names God, Allah, Yahweh, Brahman, Nirvana. It can be argued that they are in some way linked.

MEDIATING FOCUS

In each religious tradition there is a mediating focus by means of which transcendence is made available to human beings. Again it has different names: Jesus Christ, Koran, Torah, a Hindu personal deity, the Buddha or Dharma.

EIGHT DIMENSIONS OF RELIGION

Within each religious tradition there are eight interacting dimensions which are all present but found in different ways in each.

- Religious Community
- Ritual
- Ethics
- Social and Political Involvement
- Scripture
- Concepts
- Aesthetics
- Spirituality

Underlying all of this in religious traditions there is something that pulls everything together and makes it real which is difficult to put into words. Faith in the sense not of belief but in the sense of that which gives meaning to life and gives life to the model is perhaps the nearest word.

FINAL NOTE

The model applies to all religions but provides a framework of understanding that allows for similarities and difference. It suggests that religions are dynamic organisms within which there are eight interacting dimensions.

"An excellent way to get a broad structural perspective of some of the major world faiths."

"A well structured, multi-faceted insight into a number of faith traditions that proved excellent value for money."

"Fantastic introduction to the core concepts and beliefs of many of the world's religions. Provides a good grounding & understanding to all the many religions which make up our society today."

Series participants