

## **HT 280W Salvation: Interreligious Perspectives from a Lutheran Lens**

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1 credit

Increasingly, the church is realizing that what it means to be “saved” is a much more complex question than simply where one is “going” after death. Instead, salvation touches the whole of human life—both individually and communally—and relates directly to how one understands both life and death. Simply put, the threat of hell is no longer reason enough to care about “salvation.” The church needs to be able to articulate why salvation matters *now*, and how it actually makes a difference in one’s life.

Another complex issue related to the question of salvation is the ever-increasing awareness of religious pluralism and cultural diversity; and an ever-growing reluctance to simply relegate non-Christians to the periphery of both discussions of salvation and indeed, salvation itself. The challenge is clear: Christians today require a faithful, meaningful answer to the question of how Jesus saves, but in doing so, our postmodern context requires both a reexamination of the tradition and also a fresh articulation of it. This course, then, seeks to give students the tools to do just that, by examining what it means to be “saved” [liberated, enlightened, delivered, etc.] in both Christianity and selected other world religious traditions, and the ramifications such understandings have for life and meaning in the world. The goal is to deepen and enhance one’s articulation of salvation in the Christian tradition through the comparative theological process, while learning something about other religious traditions as well.