

INCORPORATING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

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For economic success in the global village that we all live in, it is imperative that US business executives and other participants in the economic arena possess knowledge of and operate comfortably in the global market with all its diversity. Therefore, it is important that business educators expose their students to the tremendous diversity that is extant around the globe. There are a number of facets of this diversity --- economic, political, technological advancement, weather, levels of sustainability, physical survivability, cultural, and especially, religious. Business educators attempt to incorporate various elements about these diverse facets in their curriculum. One area that does not get much coverage is religion. Perhaps, this is a reflection of the strong belief in America that religion is a matter of personal belief and should not be fostered by the state or imposed on students by academic faculty.

The proposed project is the first act of an intellectual inquiry that will encompass numerous. To begin with, attention will focus on Islam and Christianity. Later, hopefully, the line of inquiry will expand to cover all the major religions. Specifically, this project will try to:

1. Attempt to establish if, and to what extent, religious precepts pertinent to business issues and practices, and religious behavioral norms practiced by adherents of different religions that affect the economic domain, are covered in American undergraduate business education.
2. Develop and logically defend a thesis that religious diversity as related to business should be a core element of undergraduate business education.
3. Develop the framework for an interdisciplinary business course that heavily incorporates the numerous facets of religious diversity.
4. Develop individual pedagogical modules for the domains of economics and finance. The modules would be used to teach and analyze how selected Islamic and Catholic beliefs about economic justice and ethical business practices impact business if practiced.