

**Activity:** Who is My Neighbor? Encountering Diversity of Religion and Worldviews at a Christian University

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**NSE Goal Focus:** Cultural Humility

**Activity Goal:** The students will be challenged to consider, “who is my neighbor?”

- Activity Objectives:**
1. Students will reflect on the make up of the student body of the Baylor Family.
  2. Students will gain the knowledge of the importance of religious diversity in the fabric of Baylor and the U.S.
  3. Students will reflect on how religious identity is a cultural identity that comes with the same power and privilege structures.

**Areas on which I asked them to reflect:** \*Relationships \*Civic Engagement \*Spiritual Health\*Mental Health

### **Materials**

- Internet
- Computer and screen would be helpful
- Paper and pens for students in class would be helpful

**Modification:** This activity can be modified to be all reflection papers.

**Caution:** At Baylor, when we talk about interfaith, we use civic interfaith because of the model we use. This module does not begin to explore interfaith concepts but only the existence of religious diversity and its importance in the fabric of Baylor and America.

### **Activity**

1. Religious Diversity at Baylor: <https://www.baylor.edu/ir/doc.php/347444.pdf>
2. How encountering diversity prepares students for a world Beyond Baylor: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=14&v=mOXYlJt4Xk8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=mOXYlJt4Xk8&feature=emb_logo)

**First**, pull up the first link on the screen in the classroom or at home. Go to page 2, enlarge screen (Ctrl+) and look at “Religious Affiliation” section. Can print copies to share as well. Have students race to place the Top 10 religions in order AFTER Baptist and Christian (No. Affli.). Once you have a winner ask them to pause and look at the list. *See discussion questions #1* below for class discussion or reflection paper for off campus students. Close discussion with an emphasis on the unique perspective these individuals bring to our academy and our social circles and that is only considering religious affiliation. We want these voices to feel comfortable to share from their perspective so we can learn more and be more well-rounded citizens.

**Second**, now that students see why this topic might come up at Baylor, remind them that their time in a university setting prepares them for the world outside of Baylor for worldwide leadership and service. The more they can think through the layers of diversity in America and the world now, the better suited they will be for whatever career they aspire to. Therefore we require them to abide by our code of conduct when it comes to the treatment of all people of

campus regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation etc. but we hope they will make a choice to get to know people that are outside of their usual scope of friends, not for the purpose of inviting people to your church or Bible Study but out of genuine interest in friendship and knowing another person. Play video is activity #2. Then follow up with questions for #2-4 of assign as reflection paper.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What surprised you about this Top 10? What about the list in general? Are there any you would have to look up? Any that are bigger in your hometown that are smaller here or vis versa?
2. What does Eboo Patel mean when he talks about a potluck instead of a melting pot?
3. Why is the goal not to “add another chair to the table?” Do some religions have a better seat than others?
4. Do you sometimes feel like you are asked to check your identity at the door? What is the harm created in that?

**Finally**, in closing the class session, spend a few minutes thanking them for their participation and willingness to reflect, on a difficult not often talked about topic. Thank them for being courageous and gracious with each other. Encourage them to seek ways to challenge their comfort zone and their knowledge on the area of religious diversity. Remind them that Baylor has an interfaith group on campus called Better Together, a Civic Interfaith Studies minor, and other programs throughout the year if they wish to connect further.