



Introduction to Interfaith Leadership

Interfaith Youth Core and Dominican University are delighted to share this curriculum for the course entitled *Introduction to Interfaith Leadership*. This complete curriculum is available for faculty to use in their classrooms, either through a blended learning cross-institutional course site on Canvas, or through these downloadable resources. There is no fee to use these materials, though we may contact you to learn more about how you are using them, and to measure their strengths and weaknesses. This project was made possible by generous funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

This curriculum was designed to be adaptable to meet the needs of faculty in diverse disciplines and settings. Each lesson consists of 3-5 modules, each of which includes videos, discussion questions, classroom activities, and readings. We believe that this curriculum functions best when these various components are used together, and therefore strongly encourage you to integrate both video content and associated activities in your classes where appropriate. You are invited to use this curriculum even if you are only using select modules, rather than the curriculum in its entirety. In order to showcase what we believe is the optimal version of this course, we have indicated which activities and readings are required in the Canvas version of the course administered by Dominican University. We have also included a variety of additional suggested and recommended activities and readings throughout the curriculum.

If you have any questions about content or how to use this curriculum in an upcoming course, please email Carr@ifyc.org.

Module 1.2: What is Interfaith?

The term “interfaith” is defined and students are introduced to the different ways this term has been applied in different contexts. Since this course will focus on people of different religious orientations coming together for cooperative action, this module covers how this differs from other applications of the term “interfaith”.

Video (4 min)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Define “Interfaith” and explain its components
- Explain the way in which your orientation around religion intersects with other dimensions of your identity

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the experiences or aspects of your background that shape your relationship with your religious and/or non-religious identity?
- Which type of interfaith work discussed in the video is the most important to you? Why?
- Are there other types of interfaith work not represented in this module that you have witnessed or participated in?

Activities required for Canvas version of the course:

- Complete an identity-wheel. This is a pie chart that shows your identities, with the size of each pie piece relating to how aware you are of each identity on a daily basis. (No submission assignment).
 - Drawing on the identity wheel you created, choose two significant aspects of your identity and explain how they may shape your engagement with this course.
- Use the internet to identify 1-2 interfaith organizations; in which type of interfaith work do they engage? (May be useful to start with Pluralism.org) Write a short response that identifies one or two interfaith organizations, name the type of work (reconciliation, sharing, or cooperative action) and briefly give an example explaining how that organization does that kind of interfaith work.

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- *A New Religious America*, “Chapter 1: Introduction to a New Religious America” by Diana Eck
- Deborah J. Levine, “The How and Why of Religious Diversity Training”

Additional recommended reading:

- Selection from *Sacred Ground* by Eboo Patel (discussion guide)
- *International Journal of Leadership Studies*, “Intersectionality and Leadership” by Agnes Richardson and Cynthia Loubier