



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 2.3: Exploring Social Capital

Students will learn about the important theory of social capital, and how our relationships and networks can be leveraged to increase pluralism and work towards the common good. We distinguish between bridged and bonded social capital, and offer real-world examples of bridged social capital averting violence between religious groups.

[Video \(4 min\)](#)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Explain the idea of Social Capital
- Distinguish between bonded and bridged social capital

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the social networks of which you are a part, both present and historical? Are there any ways in which they have benefitted you?

Activities required for Canvas version of the course:

- Return to the interfaith organization you identified in lesson 1: what is the bonded capital on which it is drawing (in the present and historically)? What is the bridged capital it is hoping to create?
- After learning about the lives of King, Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, and Dorothy Day through the course readings, choose one figure to research independently. How did this person leverage bonded capital to create bridged capital?

Additional suggested activities:

- Interview a friend or relative who came as an immigrant to this country. What difficulties did he or she encounter? What support did he or she receive from a “pocket group?”
- How have you seen social capital benefit you?
 - Did you get a job because you knew someone who worked there?
 - Did you know someone at your college/university before you applied/enrolled?
 - Have you used crowdsourcing, crowdfunding, or share economy services?
 - What has enabled you to get where you are today?
- Look at your social network: what forms of diversity are represented?
- What is the superordinate goal that drives people to create bridged social capital?
- Can you identify examples from your own experience where people have created bridged social capital with each other over a common concern? What motivated them to do that?

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- “E Pluribus Unum” by Robert Putnam

Additional recommended reading:

- “[Imagined Communities](#)” by Benedict Anderson
- *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, “Chapter 4: Religious Participation” by Robert Putnam
- *The American Interest*, “[Bowling with Robert Putnam: A conversation with the author of *Bowling Alone*](#)”
- *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life*, “Chapter 1: Introduction” by Ashutosh Varshney