



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.

Lesson 4: Cultivating Appreciative Knowledge

Module 4.1: Becoming Aware of Religious Diversity

In this module, students are introduced to the three primary areas of knowledge necessary for interfaith leadership, and are given a chance to hone their awareness of the religious diversity all around them.

[Video \(5 min\)](#)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Describe the importance and relevance of being able to identify religious diversity
- Identify 2-4 ways that you can increase your awareness of religious diversity
- Describe the different types of knowledge that contribute to the Interfaith Leadership knowledge base

Activities required for Canvas version of the course (choose one):

- The Pluralism Project has mapped the religious demographics of major cities. Study their method on their site and then using a tool such as Google Maps, do something similar on your own community. For example, type in something like **synagogues in [your city], [state]** to have markers placed on the map. Summarize what your map revealed about one or more aspects of religious diversity in your community. How has this exercise increased your understanding of religious diversity?
- Consult the data on religious diversity on your own campus (the offices of institutional research or admissions might be good places to look) and “map” religious diversity on your campus through a pie chart or similar chart. Summarize what your map revealed about one or more aspects of religious diversity in your community. How has this exercise increased your understanding of religious diversity?

Additional suggested activities:

- Cross the Line exercise with prompts focused on religious experience and practice
- Photo Elicitation: Take 5 photos representing religious diversity in your community. Include at least one example that you were unaware of before this exercise, and one example of intra-faith diversity.
- What is the awareness-involvement quotient of your local religious community? Your family? Examine a church bulletin; interview a community leader; ask about the activities of your committees; is there a Peace & Justice group or its equivalent? Does your community partner with a community of another religion or faith? Does your minister “share pulpits” with others?

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- Pew Research Center, “[America's Changing Religious Landscape](#)”:
- “[Pluralism – A Home For All Of Us](#)” by Paul Chaffee, *The Interfaith Observer*
- “[Rivers of Faith](#)”, Harvard University Pluralism Project