



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 4.4: The Interfaith Triangle

In this module, students learn about the ways that our attitudes about other religious and ethical traditions, our knowledge of those traditions, and our relationships with others of those traditions interact and influence one another. This three-way influence is known as the Interfaith Triangle and is exemplified in the principle known as My Friend AI.

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

Student Learning Objectives:

- Explain the three parts of the interfaith triangle and how they relate to the others
- Explain the My Friend AI principle

Discussion Questions:

- Do you have a “Friend AI” experience? Your experience does not need to focus on *religious* difference. Please describe your own experience in a few sentences, and then share how this experience influences your sense of yourself as an interfaith leader.

Activities required for Canvas version of the course:

- Explain the three parts of the interfaith triangle and how each relates to the other two parts.

Additional suggested activities:

- In small groups, draw the Interfaith Triangle and identify and illustrate three of the arrows moving around the triangle (i.e. Knowledge leading to Relationships, Attitudes leading to knowledge) with examples from campus or the surrounding community.

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- “American Grace: How a Tolerant Nation Bridges its Religious Divides” by Putnam & Campbell

Additional recommended reading:

- “Habits of the Heart: Implications for Religion” by Robert Bellah
- The Economist “One nation, with Aunt Susan”