



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 6: Ethics and Theologies of Interfaith Cooperation

Module 6.1: What is an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation?

The third area of knowledge for interfaith leadership is what we call an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation. This personal ethic, derived from the texts, figures, history, and art of one's own tradition, is explained in detail in this lesson. We will also identify how this ethic or theology can and should be used by interfaith leaders in different contexts.

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

Student Learning Objectives:

- Explain in your own words what is meant by an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation
- Explain how an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation can be used by interfaith leaders to mobilize groups of religiously diverse individuals
- Identify potential sources for developing your ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation

Discussion Questions:

- Return to your Story of Self from module 3.3. Which, if any, elements from your Story of Self come directly from your religious or ethical tradition or background? Could these elements also be sources for developing an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation? Explain.
- Read other participants' responses to the previous question and select one post that has helped you develop appreciative knowledge of another's tradition or worldview. Explain why.
- Identify someone in your own tradition who engages in this work. Can you discern an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation in how they do the work they do? Do their reasons resonate with you? What are other things from your tradition that motivate you to do this work that they don't mention?

Activities required for Canvas version of the course:

- Define in your own words an ethic (or theology) of interfaith cooperation.
- Given an example of how an interfaith leader might draw on an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation in order to mobilize a group of religiously diverse people.
- Return to the "[Rivers of Faith](#)" article and note the various traditions described on the site. Identify three particular resources here which could be useful to you in developing your own ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation.

Additional suggested activities:

- Created an annotated bibliography of potential sources for developing an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation from your own tradition.
- What particular aspects of "Toward a Global Ethic" or "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" might help you to identify and articulate your own core identity, and could be useful to you in developing your own ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation?
- Recalling King's concept of a World House, and drawing from resources from your own religion or worldview, brainstorm another concept or metaphor for the goal of interfaith cooperation.

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- "[Rivers of Faith](#)" from the Pluralism Project
- [IFYC resource](#) on developing an ethic or theology of interfaith cooperation

Additional recommended reading:

- United Nations "[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)"

- Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, "Toward a Global Ethic"
- Selections from *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel
- Selections from *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist* by Yossi Klein Halevi
- *Dignity of Difference* by Jonathon Sacks
- Selections from *Faithist* by Chris Stedman
- "Spirit and Spirituality Beyond the Boundaries: Can Interfaith Cooperation Be Legitimate?" by Ken L. Burres