



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 2: Key Concepts of Interfaith Leadership

Module 2.1: Interfaith in American Democracy

This module takes a closer look at the particular opportunities and challenges of interfaith leadership in a religiously diverse democracy such as the United States.

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

Student Learning Objectives:

- Explain the significance of the USA being a religiously diverse democracy for interfaith leadership
- Describe the different ways in which religious identity can be brought into public and civic life

Discussion Questions:

- Do you agree with Eck's notion of pluralism as a response to diversity? Explain why or why not.

Activities required for Canvas version of the course:

- Share a link to a recent news article that addresses the role of religion in American public life (Good suggestions can be found at Pluralism Project pluralism.org/news). In one or two sentences, summarize how this article addresses the role of religion in American public life.

Additional suggested activities:

- Look up where various countries fall on the [international religious freedom index](#); what are the criteria on which this index is built?
- Identify some organizations that are working to make their particular religious convictions public.

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- Harvard University Pluralism Project, "[From Diversity to Pluralism](#)"

Additional recommended reading:

- *The New Religious Intolerance* by Martha Nussbaum, "Chapter 3: First Principles: Equal Respect for Conscience"
- "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-First Century" by Robert Putnam
- *Journal of College and Character*, Volume 12, No. 1, February 2011; "[The Civic Relevance of Interfaith Cooperation for Colleges and Universities](#)" by Eboo Patel and Cassie Meyer
- "[A Rawlsian Idea of Deliberative Democracy](#)" by Angela Dawn White
- John F. Kennedy's [Address to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association](#)