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 5.2: Interfaith Cooperation in United States History

This lesson looks at the history of the United States, citing several instances of interfaith bridge-building and cooperation. These examples extend from the early European settlers through the 1960s and into today.

Video (13 min)

Student Learning Objectives:

- Describe 2-3 key moments of interfaith bridge-building in US History
- Select a key moment in US history and explain the importance of that event for shaping your understanding interfaith cooperation
- Critically examine the history of interfaith cooperation presented in this module for who is featured and who is absent

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the identity groups that are missing from this presented history? Do you know any key figures from these identity groups who could be considered interfaith leaders?
- Describe the two historical moments of bridge building that most inspire you as you develop your own approach to interfaith cooperation.

Additional suggested activities:

- Identify one figure from one of these groups from US history whose work could also be framed as Interfaith Leadership.
- Have students fill in a historical timeline on a Google Doc or other shared course document. They should include figures from the video but also figures and movements not included in this brief overview.
- Washington reads a letter from the Hebrew Congregation and rephrases it, noting that the United States gives bigotry no sanction and persecution no assistance. What does this example suggest about the capacity of ordinary citizens to make a difference?
- Compare the countries of origin and percent of immigrants in the population in 1965 with the same information in 2014 (or the latest figures you can find.) How does this shift impact other social movements in the United States?

Reading required for Canvas version of the course:

- Interfaith Encounters in America by Kate McCarthy; chapter 2: Strange Bedfellows: Multifaith Activism in American Politics
- Religious Pluralism in America by William Hutchison; Chapter 8: Protestant-Catholic-Jew: New Mainstream, Gropings Toward a New Pluralism

Additional recommended reading:

- Selections from Dorothy Day, Jane Addams, and Sojourner Truth
- “The story behind the letters between Moses Seixas and George Washington” & “The Letter from Seixas to Washington” & “The letter from Washington to Seixas” from Facing History
- “The Bloody Tenet of Persecution, for Cause of Conscience” by Roger Williams
- Lyndon B. Johnson’s Remarks at the Signing of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
- Barack Obama’s first inaugural address
- “World Parliament of Religions (1893)”, Boston Collaborative Encyclopedia of Western Theology
- “Celebrating Dorothy Day”, America