



Interfaith Studies Course RFP

Interfaith Studies is an emerging interdisciplinary field that responds to the challenges of religious diversity in an increasingly polarized world. This field prepares students for professions in an era where increasing religious-based differences have significant real world consequences. It is concerned with both the theory and the praxis of how people of differing religious and spiritual orientations have and continue to interact in local and global context. It explores how dialogue across religious boundaries has emerged, why it is important, and what the challenges of promoting cooperation are in an increasingly complex world. It also focuses on how to train future leaders across private, public, non-profit, and academic settings.

The Anthropology and Social Work programs here at USU recently received a planning grant from the Interfaith Youth Core/Teagle Foundation to develop an interdisciplinary Interfaith Studies Certificate Program at USU. Whether your students will work in academia, government, corporate, or non-profit sectors, successful completion of this new 21 credit certificate program will give them a “leg-up” in securing meaningful work and making a positive difference in the world.

As a first step to creating the certificate program, we are offering eight mini-grants of up to \$500 each to USU faculty to develop/modify course syllabi and teaching plans to meet the curricular goals of this program. For example, grants could be used to a) add content that ties your course to any of the themes listed above, b) add practicum experiences that build capacity for interfaith cooperation, or c) build an entirely new course. Monies may be used for course development fees including (but not limited to) research costs, books and supplies, software, field-experience development costs or other. The monies cannot be used for faculty salary. Courses may be offered within any discipline.

We expect applicants to propose course content that teaches a) appreciative knowledge of diverse religious traditions, b) the history of religious tolerance and bigotry, c) why interfaith cooperation matters and how it has been or should be practiced, or d) how to effectively and ethically engage with communities to support peoples of all (or no particular) faith tradition. We especially encourage applications that propose supervised practical experiences for students and in Spring 2017, we will consider providing additional funding for these awardees.

Proposals should be submitted by Monday, October 24th, 2016 to Bonnie Glass-Coffin at bonnie.glasscoffin@usu.edu and should include the following components:

1. A letter outlining your personal or professional motivation or rationale for submitting this proposal (up to one page)
2. A brief narrative (maximum two pages) that outlines the proposed changes to a current course or the plan for a newly developed course. Additionally, please specify when the course will be taught, how frequently it will be offered, sponsoring department, course title, brief description, and instructor of record.
3. A one-page budget that details how the award will be spent
4. Letter of endorsement from your Department Head

Interfaith Certificate course grant awardees will be selected by the planning committee and notified by November 28th, 2016, and funds will be available for use beginning January, 2017, for Fall 2017 courses. Contact Bonnie Glass-Coffin at 435-797-4064 or at the above e-mail with questions or comments.