



**Interfaith Leadership Certificate**  
 Department of Sociology, Social Work &  
 Anthropology  
 College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Program Director:** Bonnie Glass-Coffin, PhD/Professor of  
 Anthropology (435) 797-4064 or  
[bonnie.glasscoffin@usu.edu](mailto:bonnie.glasscoffin@usu.edu)

Effective for students beginning fall semester 2018 thru spring semester 2019.

## **INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE**

**(18 credits/open to all USU degree-seeking undergraduates with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA)**

In today's increasingly complex and religiously diverse world, there is an urgent need for interfaith cooperation, which is characterized by respect for individual religious or non-religious identities, by the capacity to create and sustain mutually inspiring relationships with people of differing faith commitments, and by mastering the vision, knowledge and skills that facilitate the ability to come together across religious differences in service to a common good. The emerging field of Interfaith Studies provides students with an appreciative knowledge of the ways that religious and non-religious commitments shape peoples' lives as well as with the vision and the necessary skills to engage with people of differing world views and faith-commitments. This 18-credit interdisciplinary certificate program has been carefully designed to build undergraduate student capacity for serving as an Interfaith Leader, regardless of the career that you may choose. This Certificate program can be combined with any major or minor and will add real value to any post-graduation employment or graduate-level studies that you seek.

The interdisciplinary nature of this certificate allows you to select from classes already being offered in religious studies, philosophy, history, anthropology, and many other majors, while adding a core set of courses that teach the theory and method. A key component of this Certificate program is the combination of classroom instruction together with opportunities to use these concepts and skills to help solve "real" world challenges through a practicum or community-based internship experience. It is intended to add value to *any* undergraduate major and it has been carefully designed to give you both the tools and the experience to share authentically, engage respectfully, and to bridge religious difference in order to serve the common good.

### **Program Objectives**

- To help students of any major **become interfaith leaders conversant in the theory and practice** of interfaith engagement, as related to a variety of disciplines, their future career, and community, peace & justice issues.
- To teach students **transferable perspectives and skills** including appreciation for diversity, strategies of non-violent communication, ethnographic interviewing and transcription, non-judgmental observation and participation, cultural humility and cultivation of the attitudes associated with becoming a life-long learner and an engaged citizen-scholar.
- To enable students to **integrate interfaith studies into almost any major**; completion of this certificate will make graduates **more attractive on the job market**, given the need for such sensitivity in any field.
- To further the university mission of cultivating a diversity of thought and culture while serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement.

## **PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Interfaith Leadership Certificate is open to all USU Undergraduates who have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. A grade of C or above must be obtained in each course that is counted for the certificate. Courses are divided into core courses (9 credits) and elective courses (9 credits).

A 3 credit foundations course (ANTH/RELS 1090) introduces students to the field of Interfaith Studies. This course is required of all who seek to obtain the Interfaith Leadership Certificate. It is offered on-line, and it is available both Fall and Spring semesters. A second 3 credit course is chosen from introductory offerings in either Religious Studies or Anthropology (RELS 1010 or ANTH 3160). While these courses may not be offered every semester, each of these two courses is offered at least once per year. The third required course is an Interfaith Leadership Practicum (currently ANTH/RELS 5195). This course serves as a capstone experience which is supervised by the Interfaith Leadership Certificate program coordinator. Students should begin discussing this internship/practicum experience with the Program Coordinator early in their course of studies to discuss both possibilities and expectations of this capstone experience.

The three elective courses (for a total of 9 credits) are drawn from multiple course offerings organized into four categories of course offerings including Appreciative Knowledge of Religious Traditions, the History of Religious Conflict and Cooperation, Ways of Knowing, Being, and Interacting in the World and Religious Engagement Beyond the Classroom. Students may choose from any course listed in the matrix, below, to fulfill these requirements. While not required, students are strongly encouraged to choose one course (3 credits) from the category called Religious Engagement Beyond the Classroom because courses in this category have some community-based or experiential learning as one of the course requirements. Because most of these courses are required or elective courses that serve one or more undergraduate majors/minors, students may count these courses for *both* major/minor requirements and for the Interfaith Leadership Certificate as long if the requirements for their major permit this option. Exceptions to this include ANTH/RELS 1090 and sections of ANTH/RELS 5195, which are exclusive to the Interfaith Leadership Certificate. Students are encouraged to talk with the Program Coordinator regarding any concerns or requests for clarification that may come up.

### **Requirements for this Certificate**

1. There is no separate admissions process necessary to pursue this Certificate.
2. Students pursuing this Certificate must be matriculated as degree-seeking USU undergraduate students.
3. Transfer students from other institutions may articulate semester-based courses that align with courses offered in the Appreciative Knowledge of Religious Traditions, the History of Religious Conflict and Cooperation, or the Ways of Knowing, Being and Interacting in the World categories, with permission of the Program Coordinator.
4. Students who have taken courses that articulate with either ANTH 3160 or RELS 1010 at another institution may also articulate these courses.
5. Students must receive a C or better in any course that they intend to count towards the Interfaith Leadership Certificate program.

### **Academic Advisement**

Upon declaring the intent to pursue the Interfaith Leadership Certificate, each student is assigned an advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisor at least once per semester to review their academic progress, plan their program, and discuss postgraduate opportunities. Students are encouraged to consult with their advisor about course election, academic programs, program requirements, and any other aspect of their college experience. Questions concerning University Studies requirements should be directed to the College of CHASS Advising Center, Taggart Student Center 302, (435) 797-3883.

### **Interfaith Website**

Students are strongly encouraged to use the USU Interfaith Initiative Home Page on the internet at:

(<http://interfaith.usu.edu>) to obtain more detailed information about the program including requirements, detailed course descriptions, tentative course schedules for the coming year, funding opportunities, information about hands-on opportunities in the program, and information about graduate school and employment opportunities where an Interfaith Leadership Certificate will be especially useful.

### Residence

A minimum of 9 credits of the Interfaith Leadership Certificate course credits counting toward the certificate must be Utah State University courses. Credits from distance and residence center courses are subject to departmental approval for application toward the Certificate.

### Required courses (9 credits)

Students take three of the following four courses as outlined below.

Class	Title	Offered	Credits
<b>Required of all students</b>			
ANTH/RELS 1090	Introduction to Interfaith Leadership	F, SP	3
<b>Choose 1:</b>			
ANTH 3160 (DSS)	Anthropology of Religion	Varies	3
RELS 1010 (BHU)	Introduction to Religious Studies	F, SP	3
<b>Required of all students</b>			
ANTH/RELS 5195	Applied Anthropology Practicum (by permission)	F, SP	3

### Structured Electives (9 credits)

Students choose three courses (9 credits) from categories 1, 2, 3, or 4. below. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least one of these three courses from category 4, as these courses give students additional community-engagement experience before embarking on the required practicum. Course substitutions may be approved at the discretion of the Program Coordinator. To apply for a course substitution, students must submit a complete course syllabus and a written statement outlining why the proposed course should be considered as a good “fit” for inclusion into categories 1, 2, 3, or 4 below.

#### 1. Appreciative Knowledge of Religious Traditions:

The courses in this category introduce students to major world religious traditions.

Class	Title	Offered	Credits
RELS/HIST 3010 (DHA)	Introduction to Buddhism	Varies	3
RELS/HIST 3020 (DHA)	Introduction to Hinduism	Varies	3

RELS/HIST 3030 (DHA)	Introduction to Islam	Varies	3
RELS 3050 (DHA)	Introduction to Christianity	Varies	3
RELS 3060 (DHA)	Introduction to Judaism	Varies	3
RELS 3210	Classical Mythology	Varies	3
RELS 3430	History of Ancient Religions	Varies	
RELS/HIST 4555	Women in Buddhism	Varies	3
RELS/HIST 4560 (DHA)	Women in Islam	Varies	3

## 2. History of Religious Conflict and Cooperation:

The courses in this category introduce students to historical and contemporary instances of conflict and cooperation that have religious themes at the core of these interactions.

Class	Title	Offered	Credits
RELS 2050	The Historical Jesus in a First Century Context	Varies	3
RELS 3270 (DHA)	The Crusades	Varies	3
RELS 3410	Modern Middle East	Varies	3
RELS 3470	Religion and Politics of South Asia	Varies	3
HIST 4010	Buddhism in the West	Varies	
HIST/WGS 4260	Witches, Workers, & Wives: Gender and Family in Early Modern Europe and America	Varies	
RELS/HIST 4565	Early Islamic History	Varies	3
RELS 4230 (DHA/CI)	The History of Christianity in the West	Varies	
HIST 4250	The Reformation in Britain: 1450-1688		
RELS/HIST 4566	Modern Islamic Thought	Varies	3
RELS/HIST 4730 (CI)	History of Black America	Varies	
RELS/HIST 4790	American Religious History	Varies	3

## 3. Ways of Knowing, Being, and Interacting in the World:

The courses in this category introduce students to epistemological and ontological assumptions of religious or non-religious worldviews that impact how adherents and non-adherents see and understand the world and one's place within it.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Offered</b>	<b>Credits</b>
RELS 2060	Science and Religion: Examining a Complex History of Interaction	Varies	3
ENG 2340	Navajo Literature and Philosophy	Varies	3
LING 2500	Language & Religion	Varies	3
RELS 3040	Religion, Evil and Human Suffering	Varies	3
ANTH 3120	African Healing Systems	Varies	
RELS/HIST 3170	Descent & Return: Ancient Views of Hades and the Afterlife	Varies	3
RELS 3420	Gods and Goddesses of India	Varies	3
RELS 3510 (CI/DHA)	Islamic Visual Cultures	Varies	3
PHIL 3600 (DHA)	Philosophy of Religion	Varies	3
PHIL 3720	Philosophical Theology	Varies	3
RELS 3820 (CI)	Hindu Sacred Texts	Varies	3
SW 3850	Spirituality & Social Work	Varies	3
RELS 4010	Yoga Theory	Varies	3
PHIL 4400	Metaphysics	Varies	3
RHIL 4410 (DHA)	Philosophy of the Mind	Varies	3
ARTH/RELS 5740	Art and Religion: Topics in Sacred Art	Varies	3

#### 4. **Religious Engagement Beyond the Classroom:**

Courses in this category require students to engage in at least three assignments that take them out of the classroom and into the community. Participation in religious ceremonies/rituals beyond their own tradition (e.g. "site visits), spiritual biographies of adherents from faith traditions other than their own, service projects coordinated by congregations or religious communities other than their own are all examples of experiential learning that goes beyond the classroom. Proposed course substitutions are approved at the discretion of the Program Coordinator. To apply for a course substitution, students must submit a complete

course syllabus and a written statement outlining why the proposed course should be considered as a good “fit” for inclusion into category 4, below.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Offered</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ANTH/RELS	Bridging Religious Difference in Theory & Practice	Varies	3
SW 3850	Spirituality & Social Work	Varies	3
SW 4160	Community Practice	Varies	3