

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES AND CR

Course Syllabus One Credit Course

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Overview

In many communities religious institutions are the most connected and influential organizations. Regardless of the religion, these institutions and members represent and witness the interactions between individuals and groups in their community. They have the pulse of the community and know the types of conflicts and the degrees of discord. These institutions and leaders raise social issues and mediate conflicts both within their congregations and in the community. Traditionally, religious organizations have been the number one provider of social welfare and promoter of social consciousness. Under the Bush and now Obama administration, faith-based initiatives are incorporated into their overall efforts to address conflicts and provide social services to communities. Thus the need for religious institutions and practitioners in conflict resolution to understand the relationship between their efforts to manage community and the objectives of the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives is critical.

Course Objectives

- Inform students of mandate in religious beliefs to address community conflicts.
- Determine the current role of religious institutions in addressing community conflicts.
- Familiarize students with the role government, particularly the White House Faith-Based Initiatives play in helping religious institutions address community conflicts.
- Recommend areas or methods where government and religious institutions might play a more prominent or effective role in community conflicts.