

Two-Year Initiative Plan for Islam and other Religious Studies

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Prepared by: Jeff Borrowdale, Sonya Christian, Ken Murdoff, Clif Trolin

Under the auspices of the Peace Center and a work group composed of Lane Community College, University of Oregon and other community members, the college is developing a two-year initiative to explore topics and issues connect to Islam and other religions. The leadership group for this effort comes from Bob Baldwin, Jeff Borrowdale, Susan Carkin, Sonya Christian, Rick Colby, John DelNero, Dan Falk, Michael McDonald, Ken Murdoff, Nadia Raza, Jim Salt, Jon Seidel, Stan Taylor, Clif Trolin.

Thus far, three general efforts have been suggested and work groups for each identified:

Credit Course:

Introduction to Islam – Spring 2011, credit course offering that provides basic content about Islam.

Who: Rick Colby. Working with: Jeff Borrowdale, Clif Trolin, Ken Murdoff, Dan Falk

- Scheduled for Spring Term 2011 at LCC, (U of O, REL 233, LCC, REL 199 to be developed, Dual enrollment possibilities to be explored.)
- In LCC schedule, students enrolling, paperwork in process, dual enrollment to be worked out.

Visiting Islamic Scholar Program: Invite international scholars as speakers on 5 topics (although the exact number will be dependent on funding) for Lane students, UO students, and our community. (Programs would be recorded for future use.)

Who:

- Identifying Scholars: Jeff Borrowdale, Rick Colby, Dan Falk, Clif Trolin, Ken Murdoff will be responsible for identifying the scholars
 - See Tentative outline for 1st year program
 - Once desired scholars are identified, suggestion for contacting and scheduling their participation.
- Developing a framework: Jon Seidel, Clif Trolin, Jeff Borrowdale. Ken Murdoff
 - See prospectus draft with revised mission statement.
- Carl Ernst visit 3/7-10
- Working on Stephen Shoemaker lecture for April
- Considering Kambiz GhaneaBasiri for mid-may
- Publicity efforts for Ernst visit and other under way.

Internal discussions - panel discussions on academic topics related to

- Islam (perhaps composed of Lane faculty)
- Other religions – E.g. host ecumenical panels from Interfaith Alliance.
- Who: Jeff Borrowdale, Clif Trolin, Mark Harris, Jon Seidel
- Additional ideas for topics.

Fund raising group – establish a 2 year foundation account.

- Who: Sonya Christian, Jon Seidel, Ken Murdoff, Dan Falk, Stan Taylor, Janet Anderson
 - Identify possible sources for funds and how connection can be made.
 - Volunteers for contacts.
- Need concrete action on sources and contacts

Budget development:

- Pay for part-time instructors (perhaps \$6,000)
- Visiting scholar stipend (perhaps 3 x \$5,000 = \$15,000)
- Curriculum Development funding for internal coordinating staff (Jeff, Clif)

Responsibility of Leadership Team:

The Leadership Team will provide guidance to this effort and also be advocates. Members of the team and subgroups will volunteer their time to help with the different pieces of work. The team will meet regularly in Winter 2011 and Spring 2011 face-to-face and virtually.

We will meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 4:00 to 4:50 in Center 407 (where our initial meeting was held). If you cannot be present in person, you can call the conference call at 541-463-4408. Please inform Ken Murdoff, prior to every meeting if you will be attending in person or on the phone, since special arrangements need to be made for a phone conference.