

THE SOLIYA CONNECT PROGRAM

Levels B2 C1 C2

The English section proposes this project-based course in conjunction with Soliya, (www.soliya.net) an NGO that promotes dialogue and better understanding between people from different cultures.

Students will perform the on-line part of the course, with Soliya as below, and meet with Stacey Benoit to discuss problems and issues at times to be arranged (probably 3 meetings during the term).

Purpose:

This course explores the relationship between Western and Arab-Muslim societies. It is part of an innovative cross-cultural education program that brings together university students in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa to collaboratively explore the relationship between their regions via online dialogue sessions.

*Concretely, the students will meet for **two hours each week over ten weeks** in video conferences. They will use the Soliya software and be supervised by two Facilitators, whose job is to make the dialogue lively. They will also work on a video project to be presented within the online group.*

The aim of the course and the dialogue sessions is to improve awareness, understanding, and capacity for social action towards peace. Besides building friendships all over the world, students will delve into themes and questions within an interdisciplinary framework that combines international relations, conflict resolution, and media studies.

Please, find below the links of videos that might inspire you:

Soliya presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SoliyaNetwork>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5cEMtLDA0M>

Recordings from previous students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbvUuQzIQc0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql9DsSzni5c>

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

1. analyze and articulate the roots of Western-Arab/Muslim conflict from a political, economic & cultural perspective.
2. critically assess the ideas presented by the media and express this understanding both orally and in writing.
3. display strengthened speaking in public, listening, inquiry and facilitation skills.
4. articulate a nuanced understanding of diverse models of social action.

Meeting Times: The times of your online sessions will be determined after class begins (you will partake in an online registration process with Soliya (www.soliya.net) to determine a time that is suitable for your personal schedule). The online sessions will begin in March and will last through May.

After: *Students who commit themselves in the Connect Program have the chance to enter the Soliya community. If the Connect Program is successful, the students can then follow the Facilitator Training Program during the second Semester and will be able to receive English language credit. After this training, the students will work with the Connect Program of the next year, but as a Facilitator themselves. The Facilitator Training is a high-quality training for management skills.*