

GRADUATE SYLLABUS

Alternative or Extra Credit Assignment: Intergroup Dialogue Facilitator Training/Undergraduate Dialogue Facilitation

Intergroup dialogue engages participants from one, two, or more “social identity groups” in a collaborative learning experience. More specifically, intergroup dialogue is a collaboratively structured form of group conversation characterized by participants’ willingness to “listen for understanding.” It is different from discussion, where participants generally engage in serial monologuing—each offering their perspective on a given topic, as well as from debate, where participants typically learn to “listen to gain advantage”—each seeking to trump the perspectives offered by others on a given topic. The goal of intergroup dialogue is for participants in it to build increased intra- and cross-group awareness, knowledge, and understanding leading to collective engagement in action for social justice.

Intergroup dialogue programs on college and university campuses emerged in response to undergraduate student focus group research results in which students across race expressed dissatisfaction with campus curricular and co-curricular diversity efforts. While most students cited university demographic diversity as a major factor in their decision to enroll, once on campus, many students felt the sting of self-segregation and believed the institutional multicultural education programs and courses did little to enable them to develop skill in, and comfort for, cross-group interaction and relationship building.

The Intergroup Dialogue Facilitator Orientation and Development Program is comprised of two components. The first is a fifteen-hour training session (held each semester), and the second is the co-facilitation of an eight-week undergraduate dialogue.

In addition to possible alternative and/or extra class credit for this course, completion of this training will enable you to:

- 1) Meet partial requirements for the Council of Graduate Schools’ and Association of American Colleges and Universities’ (AAC&U) Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program;
- 2) Earn Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) through the Office of Continuing and Extended Education.