



Faculty Collaboration with Intergroup Dialogue

Faculty across the university offer [Intergroup Dialogue](#) participation as for-credit assignments. Recent participants and facilitators believe Intergroup Dialogue provides a unique learning opportunity for students and has the power to enhance AU's campus climate. The program runs seven-week dialogues on a range of identity-areas including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, and faith. Dialogues are two hours each week during which, participants benefit from experiential learning and deeper comprehension of academic coursework. Students also gain understanding of how to dialogue across difference, a skill that is useful in navigating classroom conflicts related to identity.

Current faculty incorporate Intergroup Dialogue into their syllabi:

- In the place of another assignment
- As extra credit
- Alongside or in support of an existing assignment
- Toward a student's participation grade
- In replacement of lab sections

Faculty are encouraged to market the benefits of participation and facilitation to their students, as students are consistently seeking applied and practical opportunities for their resume and professional development.

Examples of course syllabi language:

Applied Conflict Resolution:

Individual Assignment (30%): Choose either: a report on a conflict resolution organization, or participation the seven week Intergroup Dialogue Program (ID) on campus with commentary in your journal summaries.

Dialogue Participation: Class members are encouraged to take part in a series of seven weekly sessions beginning the third week of September in one of several dialogue groups focusing on various social/political issues and intergroup interfaces. These sessions are run through the Center for Diversity and Inclusion's Intergroup Dialogue Program. The goal of ID is overcoming social alienation and fragmentation on campus by connecting diverse individuals and groups through meaningful and respectful dialogue. The dialogue forum creates a space for having respectful conversations on controversial topics and problematic intergroup relations. Further information is provided in the ID handout available in class. In addition to consistent participation in the dialogue sessions, class members are required to integrate their dialogue experience into their weekly journal entries and to add an extra 2 pages to their interim journal summary and an extra 4 pages to their final journal summary.

Peace Paradigms:

ALTERNATIVE OPTION: Students who participate in the Intergroup Dialogue Program (ID) (<http://www.american.edu/ocl/cdi/Intergroup-Dialogue.cfm>) will be exempt from leading the Critical Exchange during an assigned week. Instead, you will receive a grade based on your full participation in ID and a 2-3 page reflection paper on your experience (due on Dec. 10, when your final papers are due). You are still expected to participate in Critical Exchange on a regular basis during the semester. If you are interested in this option, please let Professor ____ know as soon as possible.

Sample Syllabus Template:

Participate in Intergroup Dialogue (30%): In place of x assignment(s), students can elect to participate in 14 hours of dialogue through CDI's seven-week Intergroup Dialogue Program. Spring 2016 dialogues run from February 15 through April 6 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 6-8pm. In addition to full participation in all seven dialogue sessions, students will submit a 6-page reflection paper focusing on how their dialogue experience deepened their understandings of concepts and readings discussed in class.

Intergroup Dialogue Contact

Michelle Strange
Coordinator, Dialogue & Diversity Programs
Center for Diversity & Inclusion
Mary Graydon Center 202G
mstrange@american.edu
202-885-3347