

**COMM 3000—002
DIALOGUE:
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION
Tuesday-Thursdays 3:30-4:45pm
Dr. Jennifer Simpson
Hellems 255**

“I entered the classroom with the conviction that it was crucial for me and every other student to be an active participant, not a passive consumer...”

~bell hooks

Office Hours and Details:

The best way to reach me outside of class time or office hours is via e-mail at **Jennifer.Simpson@Colorado.edu**, course information and readings are available on-line at <http://www.colorado.edu/communication/comm3000002>

The class e-mail list address is dia3000@yahoogroups.com and the message archive can be accessed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dia3000>

My regular office is located in **Willard Hall, Room 29**. I will gladly meet with you there by appointment, and can be reached there at any time at 303-735-2096.

Required Books and Readings:

Anderson, R., Baxter, L., and Cissna K. (2004). Dialogue: Theorizing Difference in Communication Studies. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (referred to as ABC)

Flick, D. L. (1998). From Debate to dialogue: Using the understanding process to transform our conversations. Boulder, CO: Orchid Press.

Isaacs, W. (1999). Dialogue: The art of thinking together. New York, NY: Currency/Random House.

Supplemental Readings:

Additional or alternative readings may be assigned at my discretion over the course of the semester to address issues that arise in course discussion or to deeper learning on topics of particular interest. These readings will be handed out in class or available on-line. You are responsible for knowing what readings are due on any given day. Please check the course web site or contact me in advance of class if you are unsure.

This Syllabus is tentative and subject to change. Changes will be posted on the course web site, and you are responsible for being aware of the most current changes.

Objective

Dialogue (engagement in constructive communication including careful listening, an openness to others, and efforts to understand) and deliberation (the use of critical thinking and reasoned argument as a way for citizens to make decisions on public policy) are cornerstones of an engaged civic life. This course explores models for dialogue and deliberation across contexts through course readings, guest presentations by civic leaders, and hands-on class experience. Aiming to be a space for civic engagement in action, the course offers an opportunity for students to develop and implement a dialogue/deliberation project on a matter of civic interest to members of the class over the course of the semester. Students can expect a dynamic, engaged class experience that bridges theory and practice both in and out of the classroom.

Attendance and Work Submission Policy

For our class to form a functional, supportive, and effective learning environment, attendance and participation are required. In class discussion items are subject to testing along with concepts from assigned readings. Unexcused absences are not acceptable, and will negatively impact your grade in the course. If you are ill, you will be expected to provide verification from Wardenburg or a private doctor. **A late written assignment will be penalized 10% of the grade for each day it is late, and will not be accepted more than three (3) class periods after it is due.** If any circumstances arise that inhibit the timely completion of your work, I expect you to see me **BEFORE** they are due so that we can discuss possible arrangements.

Class Ground Rules

This class is a safe zone that respects all people regardless of cultural background, sexual orientation, age, religion, ability and gender. Some ground rules that facilitate a safe climate are no interrupting, put downs or name-calling. I expect you to think critically and engage everyone respectfully in my classroom and on our course discussion list. The campus policy governing classroom behavior can be found at www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html.

Honor Code

The University of Colorado at Boulder has adopted an honor code to make more visible our commitment to academic integrity. Plagiarism of any kind is not tolerated, and carries serious sanctions. Plagiarism is defined as: n 1: a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work 2: the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own (Source: WordNet ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University). Please visit www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/ for more information about the university honor code.

Class Preparation

All class members are expected to read **all** assignments thoroughly and to be prepared for class discussions. You are to have read the class readings before class on the day for which they are assigned. Verbal participation will affect your grade. **Pop quizzes may be administered and mini-assignments added from time to time to enhance class participation or student learning.** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the information you missed, including assignments.

Community Discussion List

Every member of the class is expected to sign up to and participate in an on-line discussion that will allow space for reflection on class readings and provide a forum for follow-up on class discussions. The list will be hosted by Yahoo!Groups, and class members should sign up during the first week of class **by going to the class website and following the link to the Yahoo!Groups list. Please let me know right away if you have difficulty subscribing so we can resolve the problem as quickly as possible.** I will use this list to share important information with you over the course of the semester, and you will each be expected to **post one substantive, thoughtful message to the list each week (due by Sunday night every week).** This message may raise a question about the reading, respond to or elaborate on a class discussion, or relate class material to an experience outside of class. The posting may include points of appreciation, points of disagreement, or pleas for clarification. Respect for one another's viewpoints and perspectives is expected at all times. Postings will be graded out of 5 points each, and will be aggregated and returned to you four times during the semester.

Exams

There are three exams scheduled this semester. Your first Exam will take place on **February 14th**, and your second Exam will be held on **March 21st**. Your final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday May 9th, 10:30 am- 1pm**

Group work and Dialogue Facilitation

A substantial part of the work in this class will involve working together with members of a small group (~5 students per group) to identify an issue of pressing concern to the campus and/or Boulder community, doing relevant research, and facilitating a classroom dialogue that engages the multiple issues, perspectives, and facets of the issue in a meaningful way. Each group will have substantial liberty to choose their topic and frame the classroom event—your grade will be determined by the thoroughness and sensitivity to multiple perspectives and dimensions of the issue

Papers

There are two papers scheduled throughout the semester. The first will provide a basis and rationale for your group's choice of topic, explain your interest in the topic, and the role you will play in working with your group. Each group member will be responsible for conducting comprehensive research on a different element or facet of the issue your group has chosen to pursue. Your final paper will provide an analysis of your group's efforts and detail your own learning about dialogue and civic action using class concepts and theory. For each of these papers you will be expected both to do additional reading beyond that assigned for the course (though some of it may draw from readings included in your texts but not assigned) and to draw on personal experience and research. More details will be provided as the due date for these papers approaches.

Course Requirements and Grading

Assignments*	Points	Due Date(s)
Exam 1	100	2/14
Paper 1	100	2/23
Exam 2	100	3/21
Paper 2	100	4/20
On-line postings	75	Sunday night, weekly
Group Dialogue & Presentation	75	TBD by Group
Final Exam	100	5/9
Participation		
Attendance/ participation—in class	50	Every day
Total	700	

*Quizzes and/or exams may be added if deemed necessary or appropriate.

Grading is based on the following point distribution:

100-95%	A	73.5-76.9%	C
90-94.9%	A-	70-73.4%	C-
87-89.9%	B+	67-69.9%	D+
83.5-86.9%	B	63.5-66.9%	D
80-83.4%	B-	60-63.4%	D-
77-79.9%	C+	0-59.9%	F

An invitation

Part of what I enjoy most about teaching is getting to know my students and helping them apply course material to their own experience. I highly encourage you to meet with me in my office either alone or as a group. The more open the lines of communication between us the better able I will be to address your individual learning needs. Also feel free to e-mail me anytime with questions or concerns that you have regarding course material.

Special Circumstances

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from Disability Services (DS) and discuss specific needs with me, preferably during the first two weeks of class. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices).

If you will miss class because of a religious observance, please see me well in advance of your absence so that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR OPTIMAL LEARNING

Academic Skills Program (Student Academic Services) 492 - 5474

Willard 386

Academic Excellence Program 492 - 3842, 492-4977 (TTY)

Willard 313

Advising, tutoring, career advising, financial advising, mentoring for low income, 1st generation in college or disabled students

American Indian Upward Bound 492 - 6134

WILLARD 203

Career Services 492 - 6541

WILLARD 20

Counseling and Psychological Services: A Multicultural Center

492 -6766 WILLARD 134

Center for Multicultural Affairs 492 - 5667 WILLARD 112

Social Support/Counseling/ Resource and Referral

Mentorship/Leadership

Cultural Awareness & Sensitivity

Professional and peer counseling

Disability Services TTY/V 492 - 8671 WILLARD 322

English as a Second Language 492 - 5547

1030 13th Street (63 UCB)

Information Technology Services

Help Desk: 492-6543 General: 492-8172

Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center

492 - 1377 WILLARD 227

Stress Management Counseling 492 - 5654 WARDENBURG

Tutorial Services 492 - 5474 WILLARD 386

Women's Resource Center 492 - 5713 UMC 412

Writing Programs

Student Academic Services Center 492 - 1416

WILLARD 386

Program in Writing and Rhetoric 492-5464

Basement Environmental Design Building

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Assignments
T 1/17	Introductions and Course Overview	
R 1/19	Fundamentals of Dialogue	ABC, Foreword & Ch. 1 (xv-17) Isaacs Foreword & Intro (xv-14)
T 1/24	What is Dialogue?	Isaacs Chs 1-3 (17-82)
R 1/26	Doing Dialogue	Flick Chs. 1-4
T 1/31	Small Group Planning Meetings	**E-mail me by 5pm with Dialogue Topic, Rough Outline, and Assigned Duties by Group Member
R 2/2	Doing Dialogue <i>Guest Lecture—Deborah Flick</i>	Flick Chs. 6-9
T 2/7	Building Capacity for New Behavior	Isaacs Chs 4-5 (83-133)
R 2/9	Practicing Capacity for New Behavior	Isaacs Chs 6-7 (134-184)
T 2/14	Summary and Synthesis	

Date	Topics	Assignments
R 2/16	Exam I	Study!
T 2/21	<i>Guest Lecture—David Chrislip</i> Negotiating the Crossroads: Civic Leadership in the 21 st Century	[On-line] Negotiating the Crossroads Chrislip on Civic Leadership
R 2/23	Principles and Practices of Civic Leadership	Paper I Due
T 2/28	Theories of Dialogue	ABC Chs 1-2 (1-38)
R 3/2	Communication, Ethics, and Dialogue	ABC Chs 3 & 5 (39-56; 75-90)
T 3/7	<i>Guest Lecture—Paul Alexander</i>	
R 3/9	Dialogue and Transformative Change—Groups Meet	ABC Chs 6 & 10 (91-104; 159-174)
T 3/14	The How and Why of difficult Dialogue	Uncertain Path [On-line]
R 3/16	Appreciative Inquiry and Public Dialogue: An Approach to Community Change	Finegold, Holland, Lingham [On-line]

Date	Topics	Assignments
T 3/21	Strategic Questioning—An approach to creating personal and social change	Peavy [ON-line]
R 3/23	Film: Color of Fear	
T 3/28	Spring Break	No class
R 3/30	Spring Break	No class
T 4/4	Facilitating Difficult Dialogue	Public Conversations Project: Meeting Phases [On-line] Participant Guidelines [On-line] Facilitator Guidelines [On-line]
R 4/6	Group Work—	
T 4/11	Summary and Synthesis—Exam 2 Review	
R 4/13	Exam 2	Study!
T 4/18	Dialogue: Civic Engagement in Action—Group A	

Date	Topics	Assignments
R 4/20	Dialogue: Civic Engagement in Action—Group B	
T 4/25	Dialogue: Civic Engagement in Action—Group C	Groups A & B Paper 2 Due
R 4/27	Dialogue: Civic Engagement in Action—Group D	
T 5/2	Connections & Synthesis	Groups C & D Paper 2 Due
R 5/4	Closing Thoughts: Engaging beyond the Classroom	

All readings marked with a * are available from the course web page, listed below.

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out if the content of this schedule has changed at all. Updates to it will be posted at <http://www.colorado.edu/communication/comm300002>

Final Exam, Tuesday May 9th, 10:30 am- 1pm.