

## **CPSY 590 – Theory and Practice of Dialogue (1 semester hour)**

Spring 2010, April 10 and 24, 9 am – 5 pm

Professor Tod Sloan

email: sloan@lclark.edu phone: 503-768-6066 hours: by appt, call 503-768-6060

### **Course Description**

Dialogue methods have been used to foster everything from personal growth through better conversation to wiser decisions for deep democracy. This seminar reviews prevalent dialogue practices and the theories that help us understand them. Includes first-hand experience with a wide spectrum of dialogue practices, ranging from conversation to community organizing to public policy deliberation.

### **Course Objectives**

- Gain familiarity with multiple uses of dialogue methods, their advantages and limitations
- Demonstrate capacity to apply dialogue theory in the design and facilitation of deep dialogue practice

### **Readings:**

Isaacs, W. (1999). Dialogue and the art of thinking together. NY: Doubleday.

Bohm, D., Factor, D., & Garrett, P. "Dialogue: A Proposal". On-line at: [dialogos.com/resources/proposal.html](http://dialogos.com/resources/proposal.html)

### **Requirements**

- Regular preparation for and participation in discussion in each class session (notify professor of anticipated absence by email). More than one hour of absence will trigger a make-up requirement.
- Plan and facilitate a 40-minute dialogue on a topic mutually agreed upon by the student and the professor, and fellow students. Submit a two-three page plan outlining: your main objective in organizing the dialogue around this topic, what issues might arise in the process and how you imagine you will support the dialogue through those moments.

### **Grading**

Final grades will be based on effective preparation for and participation in the seminar discussion and in class dialogues (50%) and on the quality of the written plan for the dialogue the student will facilitate (50%).

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Saturday May 2**

Introductions and Overview of Course

Discussion: History and Context of Dialogue – The Question of Objectives or Purpose

Dialogue Exercise – “How does society change and what should we do about it?” (PCP style)

Discussion of Readings – Isaacs and Bohm

Discussion: Elements of Dialogue Worth Reflecting On

Planning for Course Projects

#### **Saturday May 9**

Mini-Dialogues

Concluding Reflections