

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: OA 505

Title: DISCUSSION GROUP

Full Title: Discussion Group

Last Reviewed: 1/27/2020

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	0	Lecture Scheduled	0	18	Lecture Scheduled	0
Minimum	0	Lab Scheduled	3.00	6	Lab Scheduled	54.00
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	54.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 0.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 54.00

Title 5 Category: Non-Credit

Grading: Non-Credit Course

Repeatability: 27 - Exempt From Repeat Provisions

Also Listed As:

Formerly: SE 505

**Catalog Description:**  
This course is designed to engage older adults in lively discussions such as consumer issues, current events, healthy aging and literature. A supportive learning community encourages expression of thoughts and feelings, deepening of understanding and openness to new ideas and divergent perspectives. The course develops effective communication skills and enhances the quality of life.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: This course is designed to engage older adults in lively discussions such as consumer issues, current events, healthy aging and literature. A supportive learning community encourages expression of thoughts and feelings, deepening of understanding and openness to new ideas and divergent perspectives. The course develops effective communication skills and

enhances the quality of life. (Non-Credit Course)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended:

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit:

Repeatability: Exempt From Repeat Provisions

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Engage in discussions with all generations.
2. Demonstrate ability to communicate ideas.
3. Engage the mind for improved awareness and alertness.
4. Establish supportive connections with people.
5. Communicate emotions effectively.
6. Develop a more positive attitude toward life.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to accomplish some or all of the following:

1. Listen effectively and paraphrase other students' statements.
2. Follow group guidelines during discussions.
3. Identify the difference between assertive and aggressive statements.
4. Use "I" statements to communicate personal opinions.
5. Research events and issues, past and present.
6. Apply critical thinking skills to form opinions.
7. Recognize and acknowledge accomplishments of self and others.
8. Incorporate life experiences into discussions.
9. Integrate new knowledge into current life.
10. Increase self-esteem and confidence through learning and participation.

### **Topics and Scope:**

The topics accommodates varying levels of ability and participation and may include, but are not limited to the following:

## I. Communication

### A. Listening

1. Importance (e.g. information, socialization, communication between generation)
2. Barriers (e.g. interruption, monopolization, moralization, criticism)
3. Active listening
  - i. Observation of speaker's body language
  - ii. Paraphrase
  - iii. Summarization
  - iv. Reflection on emotional context

### B. Speaking and body language

1. Comments (e.g. brief, jargon free, non-confrontational)
2. Awareness of own body language (e.g. tense, relaxed)
3. Good volume
4. Eye contact
5. Assertiveness (e.g. direct, honest, responsible)
6. Effective questioning to clarify
  - i. Open-ended questions (e.g. why... how... tell me about...)
  - ii. Avoidance of close-ended or leading questions (e.g. did you... you were...)

## II. Exploration of Ideas and Meanings

### A. Motivation/intention

1. Learning renewed (e.g. curiosity and interests)
2. Openness to new ideas (e.g. I never thought of that before... That's new to me...)
3. Interest in the "why" of issues
4. Hearing divergent perspectives
5. Cultivation of meaning

### B. Group guidelines

1. One speaker at a time
2. Courteous
3. Tolerant/non-judgmental
4. All opinions welcomed
5. Exploration not debate
6. Agreement not the goal
7. Discussion stoppers (e.g. winning debates, domination, withdrawing).
8. Personal opinion stated as such

### C. Research resources

1. Internet (e.g. Google, Wikipedia, ProCon.org)
2. Books, magazines, newspapers
3. Conversations with others

## III. Topics for Discussion (Each course section may include but is not limited to the following:)

### A. Consumer economics

1. Self-sufficiency
2. Resources/entitlements
3. Rights and protections
4. Purchasing (e.g. credit cards, prescription plans, medical care)

### B. Health/medicine

1. Maintenance of independence
2. Healthy aging (e.g. cognition, physical, emotional)

### C. Technology

1. Trends/changes

2. Purchase (e.g. internet service, cable, computer software and hardware)
3. Operation (e.g. cell phone, I-pod)
4. Usefulness (e.g. email, internet)
- D. Current events
  1. World
  2. US
  3. California and local
  4. Scams, schemes and frauds
  5. People
  6. Elections/propositions
- E. Environmental issues
  1. Geography (e.g. changing world map)
  2. Climate change
- F. Politics
  1. Politicians
  2. Ideology
  3. Foreign and domestic policies
  4. Judicial decisions
- G. Philosophy/religion/spirituality
  1. Personal values
  2. Decision-making
- H. History
  1. Recollection of events
  2. World
  3. US history
    - i. Birth of the nation (Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence)
    - ii. 1800s
    - iii. 1900s
    - iv. "This day in history"
- I. Natural history (e.g. plants, animals, evolution)
- J. Science/discoveries/inventions
- K. Social Science
  1. Psychology, anthropology
  2. Gender and socio-economic issues
  3. Cultural studies (e.g. styles and events)
  4. Social movements (e.g. animal rights, disability rights, women's liberation)
- L. Biographies
  1. Historical (e.g. Robert E. Lee, Darwin, Susan B. Anthony)
  2. Recent (e.g. Martin Luther King, Jackie Kennedy-Onassis)
  3. U.S. Presidents
- M. Literature
  1. Historical
  2. Poetry
  3. Novels/stories
  4. Plays
- N. Language
  1. Etymology
  2. Definitions
  3. Foreign (e.g. Spanish)
- O. Art and photography
- IV. Enhancement of Quality of Life
  - A. Mental stimulation - critical self-reflection (e.g. connection of topics to present life)

1. Observation (e.g. reframe previous assumptions)
2. Recognition (e.g. new self-knowledge)
3. Application (e.g. new meaning and value to past experiences)
- B. Social interactions
  1. Role playing (e.g. great debates, historical re-enactments)
  2. Peer encouragement
  3. Cross generational communication
- C. Emotional well-being
  1. Positive self evaluations (peer compliments, I remembered...)
  2. Self-respect
  3. Expression of feeling and emotions
  4. Experimentation with beliefs and risk taking
  5. Humor and laughter (e.g. funny memories and experiences)

### Assignment:

1. Group discussions
2. In-class activities that may include:
  - a) Scenarios
  - b) Critical Thinking
  - c) Role Playing

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

None

Writing  
0 - 0%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

In-class activities

Problem solving  
10 - 20%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

In-class activities

Skill Demonstrations  
10 - 20%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Exams  
0 - 0%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance, participation, in-class activities, and class discussion

Other Category  
60 - 80%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Instructor prepared materials