Dialogue Development Group

Fall 2012 Dialogue Participant Application

First Name: _____ Last Name / Family Name: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (Apt. Number)

_____
(City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail: _____ Contact Number: _____

The following information is required to facilitate placement and forming balanced dialogue groups. Information provided will be kept confidential when used for statistical purposes towards grants and program development.

Year of Birth: _____ Gender: _____Race / Ethnicity: _____

Religion: _____ National Origin: _____ Citizenship: _____

Political Views: _____ Sexual Orientation: _____

AU Status: □ Freshman □ Sophomore □ Junior □ Senior □ Grad 1st year □ Grad 2nd year □ PhD □ Staff □ Other

Program / Major _____ School: _____

Are you an International Student? □ Yes □ No / Are you an AU Staff Member? □ Yes □ No

If not an international student, have you ever lived outside the United States? □ Yes □ No

If yes, where and how long? _____

How did you hear about this semester's dialogues? _____

Have you applied before to participate in a DDG dialogue? □ Yes □ No

If yes, were you placed in a dialogue? □ Yes (Please specify: _____) □ No

Are you participating in the dialogue as part of a class this semester? □ Yes □ No

If yes, which class? _____ Instructor: _____

***** Please rank your topic choices (only select those that fit your weekly availability) *****

Please refer to Page 3 for the descriptions of each dialogue topic

(A) Does God Love Us the Same? Exploring our Racial and Religious Identities (Mondays, 5:30 – 8 pm)

(B) Believe It or Not: A Dialogue on Atheism, Christianity and Faith (Tuesdays, 2:30 – 5 pm)

(C) Religion & Sexuality: Exploring the Divide (Tuesdays, 5:30 – 8 pm)

(D) What's Gender Got To Do With It? Exploring the Relationship between Culture and Gender (Wednesdays, 5:30 – 8 pm)

(E) The Mascul-IN's and Femin-OUT's of Gender: An Exploration of Gender (Thurs., 5:30 – 8 pm)

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____ 4th Choice _____

In the space below, tell us why you are interested in the choices you have indicated above.

Responses may be brief or comprehensive.

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Please list any special needs: _____

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Are you interested in learning about dialogue facilitation in the future? □ Yes □ No □ Not Sure

I understand that this is a **7-week commitment**, and I commit to participate in **all the scheduled dialogues**. I understand that due to group size limitations, **application does not guarantee placement** in a dialogue group.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Please return to SIS 214 or to ddg@american.edu by Friday, September 21st

To learn more about DDG, please e-mail ddg@american.edu or visit www.american.edu/sis/ipcr/ddg.cfm

A. Does God Love Us the Same? Exploring our Racial and Religious Identities

Mondays from 5:30-8:00 October 1st – November 12th

Have you ever wondered if your God cares about skin color? Within a racial community, how much does religion matter? Are you interested in exploring the various ways religion and race affect your life? By bringing together a diversity of faith and racial identities, this dialogue will openly and honestly consider the sometimes contentious nuances of these powerful identities.

B. Believe It or Not: A Dialogue on Atheism, Christianity and Faith

Tuesdays from 2:30-5:00 October 2nd – November 13th

What role does God play in the lives of Christians? How do Atheists find hope and purpose in life without God? Does analytical thinking threaten belief in God? Have you ever experienced a 'crisis of faith'? This dialogue is open to anyone who identifies as Atheist/Agnostic or Christian and is open to an honest dialogue about these and other questions.

C. Religion & Sexuality: Exploring the Divide

Tuesdays from 5:30-8:00 October 2nd – November 13th

With the national and global climate of GLBT rights and marriage equality, the media often portrays a clear divide between LGBT rights activists and religious communities. How valid is this divide? Is there room somewhere in the middle? Listen, reflect, and share as we begin an enriching weekly dialogue on this important topic.

D. What's Gender Got To Do With It? Exploring the Relationship between Culture and Gender

Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00 October 3rd – November 14th

How do you identify your own gender, and does your culture allow you to choose? Does your culture reserve masculinity for men and femininity for women? How does your culture's perception of gender influence your choices and behaviors? We welcome participants of ALL identities and with all types of experiences to join us in exploring the link between culture and gender.

E. The Mascul-IN's and Femin-OUT's of Gender? An Exploration of Gender

Thursdays from 5:30-8:00 October 4th – November 15th

What is your relationship to your gender? Do you define it, or does it define you? How does gender affect or limit interactions in your social, personal, and professional life? This mixed gender dialogue aims to create a safe and open space for engaging these questions and others, exploring how gender shapes our daily lives. We welcome participants of ALL gender identities with all types of experiences.

Groups meet for two and a half hours for 7 weekly sessions beginning the week of October 1st

*Attendance at all seven dialogue sessions is **MANDATORY**.*

Please do not apply to a DDG group unless you understand this commitment.

Dialogues are facilitated by trained AU students and alumni under faculty/staff supervision.

Dialogue Development Group

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What is Dialogue?

There are different definitions of dialogue, but DDG defines it as a guided conversation where people from different backgrounds can speak from their own experiences in an exchange of ideas with others. This helps people find common ground with individuals they might not otherwise talk to, while also learning about their own identity. Unlike debate, dialoguers listen to understand, not to prove a point or convince others of our points of view. There is no emphasis on winning, but rather on learning, collaboration and on creating new and shared understanding.

Who are we?

The Dialogue Development Group (DDG) is a student-led joint project of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program at American University. Our mission is to build community, heal divisions, create new knowledge, and promote civic engagement through the development of dialogue programs at AU. We strive to identify and respond to issues that matter to members of our local and global community by creating a constructive space for dialogue.

To learn more about DDG, please e-mail ddg@american.edu or visit

www.american.edu/sis/ipcr/ddg.cfm