



## Spring 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 1<sup>st</sup> year  Grad 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Pages 3 – 4 for the descriptions of each dialogue topic \*\*\**

**(A) Beyond Belief: A Dialogue on Religion, Faith and Secularism** (Mondays, 5:30 – 8 pm)

**(B) Born This Way... or Wasn't I? An Exploration of Gender** (Mondays, 5:30 – 8 pm)

**(C) The Color of Politics: Black, Red, Brown, Blue, White, Yellow, Purple?** (Tuesdays, 5:30 – 8 pm)

**(D) Interacting Identities: A Dialogue on Cultures in You and Around You** (Tuesdays, 5:30 - 8 pm)

**\*\*group does not meet on 3/6\*\***

**(E) Women & Religion: Believe It or Not** (Thursdays, 2:30 – 5 pm)

**(F) Religion & Sexuality: Exploring the Divide** (Thursdays, 5:30 – 8 pm) **\*\*group does not meet on 3/22\*\***

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

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

Responses may be brief or comprehensive.

Please list any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:ddg@american.edu) by Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>***

To learn more about DDG, please e-mail [ddg@american.edu](mailto:ddg@american.edu) or visit [www.american.edu/sis/ipcr/ddg.cfm](http://www.american.edu/sis/ipcr/ddg.cfm)

Groups do not meet the week of Spring Break: March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>

*Please note the specific meeting dates of each group*

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## **(A) Beyond Belief: A Dialogue on Religion, Faith and Secularism**

- *Mondays from 5:30-8:00*                      *February 20<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>*

How have you come to identify with particular beliefs and not others? How do religion, secularism, and morality relate to one another in your daily life? Do you ever feel judged unfairly because of your religious or non-religious beliefs? Has a difference of belief affected your relationships with family members, friends, coworkers, classmates, or others? Join us for a frank and open dialogue about these and other questions concerning faith, religion, and secularism.

## **(B) Born This Way... Or Wasn't I? An Exploration of Gender**

- *Mondays from 5:30-8:00*                      *February 20<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>*

What does “wearing the pants” really mean in terms of gender relations and power dynamics? What do you feel are the cultural expectations for your gender? How has this affected your relationships at work, at home, or with a partner? Are men and women naturally different, or do differences arise from socialization? This mixed gender dialogue aims to create a safe and open space for engaging these questions and others about how the gender lens impacts your our daily lives and interactions, and is open to participants of ALL gender identities.

## **(C) The Color of Politics: Black, Red, Brown, Blue, White, Yellow, Purple?**

### **A Dialogue on Race and Politics**

- *Tuesdays from 5:30-8:00*                      *February 21<sup>st</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>*

The political focus within the US has raised questions that would suggest a connection between racial identity and political affiliation. Do you think your racial identity has determined or impacted your political affiliation? Have you personally experienced shifting racial boundaries since the election of a black president? In the current campaign season, how does your community engage race? How often do you talk about race and politics in your own circles? This dialogue is open to anyone who would like an open and safe space to explore how race and politics have shaped their lives, and to gain a deeper understanding of others and themselves.

## **(D) Interacting Identities: A Dialogue on Cultures in You and Around You**

- *Tuesdays from 5:30-8:00*                      *February 21<sup>st</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>    \*\*This group does not meet 3/6\*\**

Are you American, international, both -- or something in between? Explore the various layers of cultural identities within you. How do your perceptions, assumptions, and stereotypes impact your relationships with the ‘other’? Join us in a dialogue of participants from both the United States and around the world to explore intercultural interactions.

*More topics on the next page...*

## Spring 2012 DDG Dialogue Groups, continued...

### (E) **Women & Religion: Believe It or Not**

- *Thursdays from 2:30-5:00*                      *February 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup>*

Do your gender and religious identities clash or complement each other? In your experience, does religion restrict or empower the role of women? Is it possible to be a feminist *and* a member of a faith community? This dialogue offers a safe space to explore the intersection of religion and gender in our lives by sharing memorable experiences and how they have shaped our perspectives. The dialogue is open to individuals who identify as women with personal experience in any religion(s) at any point in their lives.

### (F) **Religion & Sexuality: Exploring the Divide**

- *Thursdays from 5:30-8:00*                      *February 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 19<sup>th</sup>*      **\*\*This group does not meet 3/22\*\***

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.

*Groups meet for two and a half hours for 7 weekly sessions beginning the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>*

*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.*

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### ***What is Dialogue?***

While dialogue can mean many things, DDG defines it as a sustained, collaboratively structured conversation where participants from one, two, or more "social identity groups" speak from their personal experience and explore both the differences and the common ground that exist among them. In dialogue, we are interested in *listening to understand* rather than serial monologuing, which can happen in discussion, or listening to gain advantage, which typically happens in debate. In dialogue, we do not try to convince others of our points of view; there is no emphasis on winning, but rather on learning, collaborating and creating new and shared understanding.

### ***Who are we?***

The Dialogue Development Group (DDG) is a student-led joint project of the Office of Campus Life 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 (local, national and international), through the development, application, and institutionalization of dialogue programs on campus. A second and equally important aim of DDG is to provide dialogue facilitation, skill-building, education, and research opportunities to American University graduate students. While the university campus is its primary focus, DDG designs programs in ways that support interdependence and connection with the wider local, national, and international community.