Inside-Out FAQ’s: Philosophy

What is Inside-Out?

“Education through which we are able to encounter each other, especially across profound social barriers, is transformative and allows problems to be approached in new and different ways. The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program increases opportunities for men and women, inside and outside of prison, to have transformative learning experiences that emphasize collaboration and dialogue, inviting participants to take leadership in addressing crime, justice, and other issues of social concern.”  http://www.insideoutcenter.org

What is “Liberating Education” about?

We are working hard on developing a challenging and engaging syllabus, that will ask students to thoughtfully examine our deeply held, even cherished, notions of the role of education in our lives and our society. What do we believe about public education and what is the source of that belief? Second, we will critically question the actual role of a system of public education in our society today, and how it has evolved over time. Final projects will ask students to envision a utopian public education system, one that is liberated from its historical assumptions and is able to provide liberation, rather than discipline, to all people. Readings will span history, from Plato’s Allegory of the Cave to Nel Nodding’s new book, and important documents in between. http://bit.ly/1bfDjKH

Is it a service-learning class?

Yes and no. Yes, the course is offered through the Service-Learning Program, and yes, Inside-Out shares many values and core beliefs with service-learning. And no, we are not going to OSP to “do” service there or to “help” the folks incarcerated there. Students from UO are called “outside students” and students from OSP are called “inside students.” We are all students, all on equal ground, all willing and prepared to learn with and from each other.
Inside-Out FAQ’s: Logistics

**How do I get involved?** There is an application process that includes a written application, references, and an interview. Applications are due Monday 11/11 at 3pm, and interviews will take place Thursday the 14th between 11:30 and 4:00. [https://education.uoregon.edu/events/liberating-education-inside-out-applications-due-0](https://education.uoregon.edu/events/liberating-education-inside-out-applications-due-0)

**When and where does the class meet?** The course meeting time is Wednesdays, 6-8:45. It takes place in Salem at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). All students, both inside and outside, attend this meeting time together. There is one exception – before the first meeting of the whole class together (which happens Wednesday of Week 2), each group mets separately during week 1. Inside students will meet at the regular time in the regular place. Outside students will meet Friday, January 10th, from noon – 2 in 371 HEDCO.

**How do we get to Salem?** We are able to use a van from the University Motor Pool. We will meet here on campus and all drive up together. Students will be expected to share in the driving responsibility, which means you will need to be van trained ([http://odt.uoregon.edu/registration/course_view.php?crse_id=88](http://odt.uoregon.edu/registration/course_view.php?crse_id=88)) and possess a UO Driver Certification card ([https://parking.uoregon.edu/content/driver-certification-request](https://parking.uoregon.edu/content/driver-certification-request)).

Also, please note that the course meeting times are the times for the class itself. Travel time will be before and after. We need to be prepared to leave campus at 3:45 to be sure we are there by 5:00 to begin the checking in process, get escorted to the classroom, and be ready to start class at 6:00.

**Is it safe?** There has never been an incident involving an Inside-Out class in any of the prisons where we work. The Department of Corrections (DOC) would not allow the program to come in if they were not 99.9% sure. The class takes place in areas within the prison that are safe, and we will be escorted through common areas. Inside students are carefully screened and folks who are thought to be dangerous are not selected to participate in the class.

**Will I need special clearances to enter the prison?** Yes. Once you are accepted in to the class you will need to complete various forms, including a background check. There are also special dress code requirements to be aware of, and other guidelines / rules for in-prison decorum and behavior.