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?

This class will ask students to thoughtfully examine 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? We will question the role of a system of public education a democracy and in our society today. Final projects will ask students to envision a better future for our 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 brand new books and articles, with many important documents in between. The classroom will be a purposeful one. Every individual will contribute something unique and powerful to the learning community.

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.