

## PROGRAM COVENANT

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As we engage in the collective work of this program, please bear in mind that we form an academic community. In order to study and learn effectively as individuals we need to work together as a group.

### **Evergreen's Social Contract**

The Social Contract includes provisions on freedom, civility, rights, prohibition against discrimination, intellectual honesty, and other topics. If you are not familiar with the social contract, contact your seminar leader or find it on line at <http://www.evergreen.edu/social.htm>. The Social Contract governs all members of the Evergreen community.

### **Learning in the midst of conflict**

It is important that we speak openly about our needs and concerns and that we respect the needs and concerns of others. As we work through the program we expect to encounter differences, and if conflict arises we agree to proceed with respect. If we critique an idea or position, we agree to offer constructive criticism, including the posing of possible alternatives.

### **Learning about cultural difference and social inequality**

In this program we will have as part of our study the history and contemporary reality of exploitation, oppression and privilege. This inquiry requires an open-mindedness towards ideas and values which might be different from our own and a willingness to learn about serious issues such as the history of racism, ethnocentrism, cultural prejudice, sexism, classism and other forms of oppression. These and other structures of inequality shape the experiences of people living in the historical and contemporary world, including the experience we bring to the classroom. Our program work involves academic study and promotion of a cooperative and supportive atmosphere for all program members to work on these issues. We will respect and value differences of belief, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, class background, age, and experience. We will not generalize about individuals in social groups, or assume that they represent unchanging and monolithic blocs.

### **Grievance Procedures**

It is important to act on grievances in a timely fashion. The most direct way is to pursue the matter through these steps:

1. Take up the concern with the parties involved in the grievance.
2. If not resolved, meet with seminar leader.
3. If still not resolved, meet with the faculty team.
4. If still not resolved, meet with the academic dean.

However, in some situations and particularly in difficult situations students may feel uncomfortable with face to face encounters. In such cases, the college offers a range of support services. Among these are the Grievance Office (x6891), Access Services (x6348, TTY 360-867-6834), Counseling Center (x6800), First People's Advising (x6467), Housing (x6132), and Sexual Assault Prevention Office (x5221). The Grievance Office can refer you to additional support services.

## **Academic Honesty**

In an academic community we learn from each other. It is important that you acknowledge other people for their ideas, and never pass off someone else's ideas as your own. In written work, always use proper citations. You must not simply copy information from the web without citation, or even rely on cited web data without using library or other media sources. See the Social Contract for more information about plagiarism.

## **Evaluation of student performance**

Credit is not the same as positive evaluation. Students earn credit for fulfilling minimum requirements and standards. The evaluation is a statement describing the quality of the student's work. It is possible for a student to receive credit but receive an evaluation that describes poor quality work. It is also possible for a student to attend regularly yet receive no or reduced credit because of unsatisfactory performance. Starting early on readings and projects, and even staying somewhat ahead of the program schedule, can help prevent last-minute crisis completions of projects, and enhance your participation in seminar discussions.

## **Evaluation Conferences**

Students should not make plans for vacation without first signing up for an evaluation conference with their seminar leaders.

Each student will have an evaluation conference with his/her seminar leader at the end of the quarter to discuss the student's self-evaluation, the faculty evaluation of the student, and the student evaluation of the faculty. Students who wish to have the student evaluation process separated from the faculty evaluation process may submit a written evaluation of the faculty member to the program secretary. Students will submit a final, typed, formal evaluation of their seminar leader at the end of each quarter. Students will submit a final, typed, formal self-evaluation by the end of evaluation week.

## **Credit and Attendance**

Sixteen quarter hours of credit will be awarded for satisfactory completion of program requirements. Partial credit may be granted if full credit is not warranted. Requirements for credit are the same in all seminars, and problematic cases will be discussed by the faculty team to ensure that the same standards apply in all seminars. If you are absent more than three times during the quarter in seminars or all-program activities you will be in danger of earning reduced credit. A pattern of late arrival to class can also lead to reduced credit, as can handing in work after it is due, since both are unfair to the students and faculty who are keeping the program running on schedule. Three instances of unexcused tardiness will count as one absence.

A paper handed in late may not be accepted for credit if the faculty member does not accept your circumstances as extenuating. **ABSENCES WILL ONLY BE EXCUSED UNDER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.** (documented in an e-mail or phone message, preferably in advance).

## **Students may be asked to leave the program**

If a student repeatedly disrupts the attempts of others to learn, faculty team members will warn the student that continuation of this behavior will result in his or her dismissal from the program. If the behavior continues, the faculty team will confer and will ask the person to leave the program at once.

## **Alcohol/Drugs**

Any use of alcohol or drugs at a program event will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

*The faculty members have agreed to this covenant by the act of writing it and continuing in the program.*

*Each student recognizes that this covenant expresses the ground rules governing the program and agrees to abide by it by the act of continuing in the program and by signing and dating the green "Seminar Introduction Form" and returning it to their seminar leader.*

Faculty: Pete Bohmer, Zoltán Grossman, and Tony Zaragoza