



FALL 2020

# FALL FLEX

## BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH EMPATHY AND BELONGING

- All sessions will be held via Zoom.
- Most sessions include independent learning material (a video, webinar, reading, etc) for you to study before the session. You will earn Flex credit for both the independent learning and attending the session.
- All participants will earn a “virtual ticket” for each Flex workshop attended to enter a raffle to win one of five \$100 gift certificates at local restaurants. The more Flex workshops you attend, the more chances you can win!

### TUE, AUGUST 11, 2020

8:30–10:00AM

SLO Campus Center Design Open Meeting (District meeting, not flex workshop)

10:00–11:00AM

General Session 1: Community Coffee Hour

11:00–11:15AM

Break

11:15AM–12:15PM

Session 2: Creating an Equity Minded Syllabus

12:15–1:15PM

Lunch

1:15–2:15PM

Session 3: Promoting Anti-Racist Dialogue when the Topic Is Racism

2:15–2:30PM

Break

2:30–3:30PM

Session 4: Addressing Anti-Blackness on Campus; Implications for Educators and Institutions

3:30–3:45PM

Break

3:45–4:45PM

Session 5: White People Talking to White People about Race

### WED, AUGUST 12, 2020

9:00–10:00AM

Session 6: College Behind Bars

10:00–10:15AM

Break

10:15–11:15AM

Session 7: Addressing Student Challenges During COVID

11:15–11:30AM

Break

11:30AM–12:30PM

Session 8: Building Community Online

12:30–1:30PM

Lunch

1:30–3:00PM

Session 9: Six Elements for Equity Minded Course Design

3:00–3:15PM

Break

3:15–3:45PM

Session 10: Book Club kickoff:

- Teaching Community
- How to be an Anti-Racist
- We Speak for Ourselves

3:45–4:00PM

Break

4:00–5:00PM

Wrap-up Session 11: Social Hour

## DAY 1: Tuesday, August 11, 2020

## GENERAL SESSION 1

## Community Coffee Hour

Hosted by Greg Baxley and Sally Demarest

10:00–11:00AM

No registration necessary | [Zoom](#)

Welcome back Cuesta! Join your fellow colleagues with your morning coffee to reconnect, say hello, and start Fall semester with some fun summer trivia. We will introduce the Fall semester theme, Building Community Through Empathy and Belonging, and engage in activities to foster our community of educators.

## SESSION 2

## Creating an Equity-Minded Syllabus

Greg Baxley and Lara Baxley

11:15AM–12:15PM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

For some faculty members, the syllabus is a guide that outlines what learners should expect in a course and clarifies what is expected of them. For students, the syllabus helps them figure out what they need to do to ensure they will pass the course. In many ways, the syllabus conveys much more than rules and course expectations and as such, serves a larger purpose that can shape the students' academic experiences and foster their success. This workshop will offer faculty tools and concrete strategies to develop equity-minded syllabi to greater support students. Participants are asked to bring their syllabus to review, update, and infuse equity into their content. Please review and [download the Center for Urban Education's Syllabus Review Tool](#) before the workshop.

## SESSION 3

## Promoting Anti-Racist Dialogue when the Topic Is Racism

Bailey Drechsler

1:15–2:15PM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

In this one hour, we will examine case studies involving incidents of racism that were (consciously or unconsciously) perpetuated by college faculty. Small break-outs and whole group de-briefs will be used to deconstruct the specific behaviors of racism and their psychological and social impacts. We will then go on to identify specific anti-racism behaviors that promote equity, community, and a strong sense of belonging for our students.

## SESSION 4

## Addressing Anti-Blackness on Campus: Implications for Educators and Institutions

Elisabeth DeSwart and Heidi Webber

2:30–3:30PM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

In the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and others, educators are determining options for a thoughtful response. At first, school superintendents and college presidents responded by releasing public statements to their campus communities. But public statements in and of themselves are meaningless without thoughtful action that addresses the pervasive real and symbolic violence against Black communities. In this [webinar](#) (1hr. 44min.), the presenters address tangible strategies for addressing anti-Blackness in schools, colleges, and universities. Participants are asked to watch the webinar on their own and come to the workshop with reflections and dialogue on actions for campus change.

## SESSION 5

## White People Talking to White People about Racism

Dr. Matthew Davis and Bailey Drechsler

4:15–5:15PM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

For this discussion addressing steps white people can take to combat racism, participants are asked to watch the webinar hosted by the USC Race and Equity Center entitled [White People Talking to White People about Racism](#) (1hr. 28min.). During the workshop, participants will share their reactions and reflections to the webinar while also developing strategies for campus change centered around how white people can engage in anti-racist work beyond moments of protests and gestures of allyship.

## DAY 2: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

## SESSION 6

**College Behind Bars**

Sean Boling

9:00–10:00AM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

Time spent in prison too often leads to more time when those who are released face so many barriers in their attempts to rejoin their communities. Education is proving to be a way to move past those barriers. Join us for a discussion of *College Behind Bars*, a four-part documentary series that chronicles the lives of some of the men and women who have pursued a degree through the Bard Prison Initiative—one of the most rigorous and effective prison education programs in the United States. Participants are asked to watch at least the first of the four-part series on their own and come to the flex workshop ready to share reflections and discuss how it relates to our teaching at Cuesta. [College Behind Bars](#) can be viewed through the [Cuesta Library Films on Demand](#) or on Netflix.

## SESSION 7

**Addressing Student Challenges During COVID-19**

Carina Love, Denise Fourie, and Donna Howard

10:15–11:15AM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

The COVID-19 crisis has left many of our students in a desperate and difficult situation—laid off, balancing homeschooling of young children with their own course work, hungry, stressed and depressed, and/or isolated. How can Cuesta instructors best teach and serve students in these uncertain times? How can we ensure that our students continue to learn effectively amidst the many challenges they face? In this interactive workshop, we will utilize a set of student interviews conducted by Santa Monica College (SMC) to learn about common issues students are now facing and explore how Cuesta Faculty can help students remain engaged and learn in their remotely taught classes.

## SESSION 8

**Building Community Online**

Beth Ann Dumas and Zach Hall

11:30AM–12:30PM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

Join us for an interactive session as we discuss building community in our online classes. We know students thrive in an online class when they feel connected to you and to each other. We'll exchange ideas, strategies, and experiences. Check these resources out before our session to ramp up your class community enthusiasm. Let's talk community because we're better together!

[5 Ways to Connect with Online Students](#) (Chronicle of Higher Ed)

[Professors Share Ideas For Building Community In Online Classrooms](#) (Inside Higher Ed)

[Turns Out You Can Create Community in a Zoom classroom](#) (Chronicle of Higher Ed)

[Build Community in Your Online Class](#) (Harvard, Canvas page)

[5 Tips to Build Social Presence in an Online Class](#) (NC State on YouTube)

[Dr. David Joyner On building Community in Online Classes](#) (Medium.com; good principles that apply generally even though he's promoting Piazza)

## SESSION 9

**Six Elements for Equity Minded Course Design**

Rosemary Wrenn, Regina Voge, and Que Dang

1:30–3:00PM

[REGISTER HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

This interactive session will introduce educators to six key elements of Equity Minded Course Design, based on the work of the Center for Urban Education at USC and Dr. Jennifer Ortiz. The six elements can provide an excellent foundation and maximize access and equity for our students in both online and face-to-face courses. After a brief introduction of each of the elements, participants will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on ways to incorporate these elements into their own courses. Participants are asked to view the Center for Urban Education's webinar [Equity Minded Online Teaching: Using Canvas as a Model](#) (1hr. 29min.) before the flex workshop. Faculty teams from departments/disciplines are encouraged to participate as breakouts will be arranged by Departments to identify and develop specific strategies to incorporate within their courses.

## SESSION 10

### Book Club Offering

3 separate meetups to introduce participants and kickoff the series

Amelia Marini, Rachael Barnett, and Allison Head

3:15–4:45PM

No registration necessary

Cuesta will be offering 3 book offerings for Fall 2020: All book clubs will hold a 30 min introduction kickoff during Flex and schedule three Zoom dialogue sessions throughout the semester. Dates and times are listed below or will be determined with the group. All participants are asked to obtain their own copy of the books. Limited copies are available through our SLO/NC Libraries for check out.

*Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope* by Bell Hooks

Kick-Off Date: 8/12/2020, 3:15–3:45PM

Book Club Dates: 9/4, 10/2, 11/6/2020, 4:00–6:00PM

[SIGN UP HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

In this book group, participants will be reading and conversing about bell hook's 2003 collection of essays, *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope*. In these essays, hooks takes on the cynicism that allows for the violence of white-supremacy, capitalism, sexism, and other forms of dominator-culture to become normalized in American experience, and looks at sites of education (specifically, but not limited to, the classroom) as spaces of joyful resistance: places where caring and careful educators can partner with students in the creation of encouraging, sustaining, and hopeful encounters with ideas that serve the needs of an entire learning community. "Learning," hooks writes, "must be understood as an experience that enriches life in its entirety." My hope for the semester is that we'll read hooks closely, engaging with both the pleasures and challenges of her work, and that together we'll reflect upon how to apply her insights to our own teaching practices at Cuesta. Facilitated by Amelia Marini, English Department.

*How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi

Kick-Off Date: 8/12/2020, 3:15–3:45PM

Book Club Dates: 9/1, 15 & 29/2020, 2:00–3:00PM

[SIGN UP HERE](#) | [ZOOM](#)

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism and points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In this book group, participants will discuss this original approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society and in ourselves as educators. Facilitated by Dr. Rachael Barnett, English and CSS Department.

*We Speak for Ourselves:*

*How Woke Culture Prohibits Progress* by D. Watkins

Kick-Off Date: 8/12/2020, 3:15–3:45PM

Book Club Dates: TBA

[SIGN UP HERE](#) | [Zoom](#)

Watkins introduces you to Down Bottom, the storied community of East Baltimore that holds a mirror to America's poor black neighborhoods—"hoods" that could just as easily be in Chicago, Detroit, Oakland, or Atlanta. As Watkins sees it, the perspective of people who live in economically disadvantaged black communities is largely absent from the commentary of many top intellectuals who speak and write about race. "Watkins has come to remind us, everyone deserves the opportunity to speak for themselves" (Jason Reynolds, New York Times bestselling author) and serves hope to fellow Americans who are too often ignored and calling on others to examine what it means to be a model activist in today's world. *We Speak for Ourselves* is a must-read for all who are committed to social change." Facilitated by Allison Head, Kinesiology Department.

## WRAP-UP SESSION 11

### Community Social Hour

Hosted by Dr. Lara Baxley and Brian Locher

04:00–5:00PM

No registration necessary | [Zoom](#)

Join colleagues for the end of the day social hour to share your reflections from flex workshops, discuss next steps, and pick raffle winners for five \$100 gift certificates to your favorite local restaurants.

---

Please email [que\\_dang@cuesta.edu](mailto:que_dang@cuesta.edu) or [lbaxley@cuesta.edu](mailto:lbaxley@cuesta.edu) for any questions.