

Students enrolled in COU545 *Group Dynamics and Counseling* will be required to attend the conference *Transforming Open Systems: Conscious, Authority, Leadership, and Life*, which is an intensive three day training program in group dynamics. Attendance of the conference will be part of the requirements for successful completion of the course in addition to standard course assignments. The conference is scheduled for November 5th through 7th, 2010 at Teachers College, Columbia University.

The purpose of attending the conference is to expose students to a unique learning environment on group dynamics. Unlike conventional conferences, where participants sit passively and listen to speakers, an experiential learning environment is created in this conference. Members participate in intense small and large group activities that are structured in a manner that cannot be duplicated outside of this environment. The learning occurs as members of the conference create, respond to, and acknowledge the unique group dynamics of the environment.

There is an associated fee of \$325 in order to cover the costs of attending this conference, which will be added on to the students' tuition for the course. Once again, attendance of the conference is mandatory. However, if for some unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstance a student cannot attend the conference, she or he should contact the course instructor, Professor Jonathan Rust, to determine if alternative assignments or arrangements can be developed in lieu of attending the conference