

## Building Online Learning Communities

In the online classroom it is the relationships and interactions among people through which knowledge is primarily generated. Come learn how to do it with the foremost authorities and authors of the popular book by the same title.

Acquire a new understanding of redefining community in cyberspace. Find out the importance of a learning community. Learn about dialogue as inquiry, negotiating discussion guidelines, and intergroup and other forms of collaboration.

*Online, one week, November, March ; \$195, includes book; Rena Palloff and Keith Pratt, instructors.*



### Course Outline

#### Unit 1

##### Defining and Redefining Community

- Redefining community in cyberspace
- The importance of a learning community
- Community in the electronic classroom
- Participation and desired outcomes in the electronic classroom

#### Unit 2

##### What We Know About Electronic Learning

- Virtual versus human contact
- Time and group size
- Psychological and spiritual issues
- Administrative issues related to time and group size

#### Unit 3

##### Making the Conversion to Cyberspace

- Effective teaching in the electronic classroom
- The role of the learner in the learning process
- Moving to specifics

#### Unit 4

##### Promoting Collaborative Learning

- Dialogue as inquiry
- Formulating a shared goal for learning
- Negotiating guidelines
- Intergroup and other forms of collaboration

#### Unit 5

##### Transformative Learning

- Encouraging reflection

- Self-reflection
- Learning about learning



### **About online learning**

Online learning is a fun, enjoyable and very productive way to learn. Millions of people are learning online each year. You will engage with the instructor and other participants. You will get to know your instructor and other participants. You may make friends. It's easy. It's fun.



### **How the Course Works**

It is easy to participate in your online course. After you register, you will be given a web address to go to get into your online classroom. You will have a password and use your email address and password to gain access.

Once inside the online classroom, here's what you can expect.



### **Participate when you want**

Participants can participate as little or as much as you want. You can participate any time of day or evening. The online classroom is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no live real-time requirements or meetings. You decide when you participate. For the best learning, participants should log into the course on 2-3 different days of the week.



### **What you will do**

For each Unit, you will:

- Read the print readings (about 20 pages a week)
- Have the option of accessing the online readings
- Listen to the audio presentation for the Unit and view the slides
- Have the option of taking a self-quiz to see how much you have learned
- Engage in written online discussion with your instructor and other participants

For best learning, you should make one or more comments at 2-3 different times each week.

The content (readings, audio lectures, slides) and self quizzes are accessible for the entire course, so you can work ahead, or go back and review again, at your convenience.



### **Discussion**

The Discussion for each Unit lasts one week. All comments are made in writing and can be made at any time of the day or night.

Your instructor will log into the Discussion area at least once a day and answer questions, make comments, and respond to comments by you and the other participants.

We encourage you to make 2-3 comments each week to maximize your learning and enjoyment of the course.

***It's easy. It's fun.***