**Class Title: Intergroup Dialogue**

**Class description:**

Intergroup Relations is a nationally recognized program of the University of Michigan that “works proactively to promote understanding of intergroup relations inside and outside of the classroom.” In its Intergroup Dialogue course, undergraduate students are brought together to share experiences related to their diverse backgrounds. Although it was created for college students, I believe it is never too early to start educating students about issues of multiculturalism and diversity. This class will provide a safe space for students to explore the ways multiculturalism affects their everyday lives and engage in thoughtful dialogue.

I will be introducing a variety of media, such as the literary (personal essays, journals), art (photos, paintings), and popular culture (news/current events, TV) and facilitating discussion amongst students. Not necessarily a teacher, I will serve as more of an advisor throughout the process, available to answer questions and provide guidance, but ultimately allowing students find their own way and conclusions about social justice.

The hope is that students will leave with an advanced competency to see beyond their own unique lenses, and into the diverse lenses of the world. We will work on developing this capacity by exploring the multiple perspectives of individuals, groups, and communities. This study of others will lend itself to important self-introspection.

Ultimately, the class will serve as a forceful reminder that different social groups experience the world differently, and that ultimately, we must recognize that the world is multifaceted according the nature of its inhabitants and that it should not be simplified into the singular values of a dominant group. It is important for us to be able to both express our unique selves and rationalities, and allow others to do the same. We will find that communicating our beliefs, values, and interests with fellow students, colleagues, and friends can be extremely beneficial. It can even be a lot of fun!