

About Study Groups

Definition of a Study Group

A study group is an in-depth learning experience that encourages interactive participation by members. It is led by a facilitator, who establishes group expectations and areas of study. As active, involved learners, members will do outside readings and make in-class presentations. There are no tests, grades, or credits.

Characteristics of a Study Group

A study group:

- Focuses on whole group discussion, outside research, and presentations by members with minimal lecturing by a facilitator.
- Meets for a minimum of 4 weeks and for a minimum of 1 ½ hours each week in the Michel Student Center, Cullom-Davis Library, or other committee approved locations.
- Typically contains 8 – 16 members, but may contain fewer or more members at the discretion of the facilitator.
- Operates on its own schedule and has a separate fee structure from OLLI classes.

Role of a Facilitator

A facilitator:

- Seeks to pursue a topic of interest within the context of a study group.
- Identifies, defines, and submits a potential topic to the study group committee.
- Writes a study group description for inclusion in the OLLI brochure.
- Plans the course of study and provides a syllabus.
- Chooses the class beginning and ending time, day of week, and the duration of the class.
- Sends out an introductory letter prior to the first class with the syllabus and any reading assignments.
- Encourages an active exchange of ideas among participants based on common readings and/or individual assignments.
- Supports the members in their research and requests their audiovisual equipment.
- Provides feedback about the experience through an evaluation of the study group and continuing education.

Role of a Member

A member:

- Completes outside readings and assignments.
- Engages in study group discussions by sharing ideas and insights.
- Makes presentations.
- Provides feedback about the experience through and evaluation of the study group and facilitator.

Responsibilities of Study Group Committee

The committee:

- Welcomes and encourages the creation of new study groups.
- Identifies and approves study group topics.
- Recruits and approves facilitators.
- Champions the concept of study groups.

Support from Bradley University Continuing Education

Bradley University Continuing Education:

- Markets study groups.
- Registers members and provides member lists to facilitators.
- Arranges and provides for room locations, refreshments, audiovisual equipment, and handouts.
- Coordinates feedback for the facilitator and study group committee.