

# Collaborative Learning & the Pedagogy of Groups

Although the educational system is designed largely to evaluate the individual, most all human activity involves cooperation and collaboration. Collaborating with others is a critical skill and a mechanism by which we can give students hands-on experience applying and extending their newfound knowledge. Group (or team) work also means we can raise our expectations and assign significant projects that cannot be reasonably undertaken by the lone individual. It also means that we can assign work that would normally be difficult (or impossible) to evaluate in large classes if it were assigned to individuals. This workshop will explore ways to integrate collaborative work into your courses, and how to manage and evaluate collaborative effort.

- **Presenter:** Carol Tutzauer
- **Class Type:** Hands-on
- **Category:** Teaching Effectiveness
- **Duration:** 1 hr
- **Location:** 212 Capen Hall, North Campus

## Outline

- I. Group vs individual work
- II. Common problems
  - A. Free-riding (social loafing)
  - B. Domineering/controlling (lone wolves)
  - C. Coordinating & logistical planning
  - D. Grading (individual vs group, lots of calculating)
- III. Suggestions
  - A. Give opportunities to become acquainted
  - B. Provide structure & clear direction (clear expectations)
  - C. Help students learn group/collaborative skills
  - D. Provide motivation/incentives
  - E. Consequences, consequences, consequences
  - F. Promote asynchronous collaboration
  - G. Pairs instead of groups as an option
- IV. Activity ideas
  - A. Group exams/quizzes
  - B. Group projects/presentations
  - C. Case studies
  - D. Problem-solving
  - E. Wikis
  - F. Topic FAQs / Course knowledge base
  - G. Round-robin