

# Teaching in Turbulent Times

Friday, September 27, 2024

12 PM – 3:30 PM

Halle 300



**12:00 PM** → **Lunch**

**12:15 PM** → **Welcome & Overview**  
Introduction from Provost Rhonda Longworth

**12:30 PM** → **Cans and Cannots in the Classroom**  
Jeff Ammons, EMU Associate General Counsel, reviews rules concerning what professors can and cannot do in the realm of political advocacy, inside and outside the classroom.

**1:15 PM** → **First Breakout Sessions**

**2:05 PM** → **Second Breakout Sessions**

**For each round, please pick one session to attend.**

**Session 1:**

*Concrete Steps for  
the Day after the  
Election*

Jeffrey Bernstein and  
Dwight Hamilton

**Session 2:**

*Achieving Civility  
Throughout  
Classroom  
Conversations*

Brigid Beaubien and  
Dyann Logwood

**Session 3:**

*Creating a Safe  
Classroom Ethos*

Carmen McCallum  
and Barbara Patrick

**Session 4:**

*Empowering Change:  
Embracing Civic  
Engagement Across All  
Disciplines*

Katy Greenwald, Heather  
Hutchins-Wiese, and  
Caren Putzu

**2:50 PM** → **Dessert, Refreshments & Wellness Panel**

This panel discussion aims to center student and faculty wellness in discussions of how we address the 2024 election, and other concurrent local, national, and world events that can induce stress and anxiety for students.

Featuring Sean Woolf, Jamie Lawler, and Ron Flowers  
Moderator: Selyna Pérez Beverly

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## Breakout Session Descriptions

### Concrete Steps for the Day After the Election

*Jeffrey L. Bernstein, Professor of Political Science and Director, Faculty Development Center & Dwight Hamilton, Chief Diversity Officer*

It is the first class period right after the election. At this point, you have no idea what the election could be. Trump wins? Harris wins? Too close to call? Kennedy? (OK, not Kennedy!). Will the results be disputed? How, as instructors, will you approach this class, and the many emotions you and your students may be feeling? Join us for a discussion of how to approach this challenge. We'll discuss how we might discuss what happens in a way that respects the wellbeing of all students (even the ones with whom we disagree) but does not shy away from discussing the implications of this pivotal election. We look forward to kicking around together how we do this.

### Achieving Civility Throughout Classroom Conversations

*Brigid Beaubien, Professor of Teacher Education and Director, Upshur Institute of Civic Educations & Dyann Logwood, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies*

Unsure of where or how to begin engaging in civil discourse in your classes? Join us as we delve into practical steps you can take to promote civility in your classroom. We will discuss the significance of understanding the 4 D's (discourse, dialogue, discussion, and debate), how to create protocols that foster a civil classroom environment, and skill building structures you can use with your students as soon as Monday.

### Creating a Safe Classroom Ethos

*Carmen McCallum, Associate Dean for Faculty and Community & Barbara Patrick, Professor and Department Head of Political Science*

College classrooms are ideal places in which students can be exposed to new and challenging ideas. However, for this to happen, there needs to be some degree of safety in the classroom, so students can be comfortable considering new ideas, disagreeing without being disagreeable, and benefiting from hearing the different voices in the room. Join us to discuss how to create this safe classroom ethos to make significant learning possible.

### Empowering Change: Embracing Civic Engagement Across All Disciplines

*Katy Greenwald, Professor of Biology and Program Coordinator, ENVI, Heather Hutchins-Wiese, Professor of Health Sciences, and Caren Putzu, Associate Professor of Social Work*

Civic engagement is too important to be left only to traditional civics disciplines like history and political science. Instead, all disciplines have something to contribute to the civic education of our students, in a variety of ways. Join us for a presentation of ways civic engagement can be infused into a range of courses - we hope you will bring your ideas and experiences to the conversation!

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## Presenters

**Jeff Ammons** has been EMU's Associate General Counsel since 2018. He came to EMU after working at the Dickinson Wright law firm for eight years, where he spent most of his time serving higher education and K-12 clients.

**Dr. Brigid Beaubien** holds a dual appointment as a professor in the College of Education and as the director of the Upshur Institute for Civic Education located in the College of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Michigan University. Her research revolves around developing civic identities, the university's role in sustaining democracy, and civic education in pre-service teacher programs.

**Jeffrey L. Bernstein** is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center at Eastern Michigan University. He has written a great deal on civic engagement issues, and relishes the opportunity to engage with students in challenging conversations about real-world events.

**Ron Flowers** is a Professor in the Department of Leadership and Counseling and Program Coordinator for the Higher Education Student Affairs MA program. He has over forty years of experience as an academic and student affairs administrator. His work has focused on student well-being and building communities of support and caring.

**Katy Greenwald** is a Professor of Biology and the Program Coordinator of the Environmental Science & Society Interdisciplinary Program (ENVI). She connects and engages students with the broader environmental community via ENVI Program internships and course-based academic service-learning projects.

**Dwight Hamilton** is EMU's Chief Diversity Officer and has held senior DEI roles at Grand Valley State University, Northwestern University, and Smith College. Prior to working in higher education, Dwight practiced law in both law firm and corporate settings.

**Heather Hutchins-Wiese** is a professor in the School of Health Sciences, Dietetics Program. She incorporates policy and cultural sensitivity discussions and assignments into the community nutrition courses she teaches to help students consider how policy can impact everyday life and their careers as future dietitians.

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## Presenters (cont.)

**Jamie Lawler** is a clinical and developmental psychologist who specializes in stress and resilience, especially in children. She does research and clinical work related to promoting self-regulation, resilience, and emotional well being in youth and their families.

**Dyann C. Logwood** is an Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Eastern Michigan University. Her professional endeavors include developing a Black feminist mentorship curriculum, fostering a sense of belonging in communities and academic spaces, and implementing critical classroom practices. Additionally, she is the Founder and Co-Director of the Mentoring for Success Initiative and the Chair of the Annual Women of Color Symposium.

**Carmen McCallum** is an Associate Dean in the College of Education. Her research interests include access and retention within graduate education; African American students and faculty; programmatic assessment and evaluation; Inclusive Supervision, graduate students' mentoring experiences, and Intergroup Dialogue. Most recently, she has engaged in research and facilitated workshops on effective communication across differences.

**Barbara Patrick** is a professor and interim head for the Department of Political Science. She engages in research and initiatives that impact the lives of underserved communities. Some of her EMU service includes leading a team of faculty in the development of dissemination of a video series and training module highlighting how we might better serve students, launching CAS's Civil Rights & Social Justice Center and several additional activities aimed at addressing the needs of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

**Caren Putzu** is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work. She primarily teaches research methods, policy, social welfare history, and a GEQR course in social work, all of which have a civic education component.

**Sean Woolf**, trained as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor, is currently the Associate Dean of Students at Eastern Michigan University. He focuses on applying research in well-being and positive psychology to higher education, strongly emphasizing enhancing the student conduct process.