

COMMUNITY AGREEMENT GUIDELINES

The Free University is a collective effort to practice an environment for public education that does not oppress some at the privilege of others. As we fight to free ourselves from the institutional practices that we find inaccessible, such as tuition, we hope to also use the free university space to free ourselves from the societal oppressions that we each engage with in our daily interactions. We hope that these guidelines will help to maintain a safe space for all members of the Free University community.

We ask that all participants of the Free University be conscious of the different social categories that different people occupy. Our society functions on systems that privilege some identities over others, and the free university is interested in remedying that harmful dynamic.

Here are some ways that you can act with awareness and compassion in the free university space (and always!):

Practice **respect**: Different experiences offer different knowledges. Try to be open to new ideas, new people and new experiences.

Practice **awareness**: This is a *free* university, where all levels of knowledge are respected and appreciated. Please do not privilege certain voices over others due to a person's knowledge level, identity or social category.

Please be aware that this is a **participatory** space. That means that we are all working together to learn from one another and to make this a safe space for everybody.

We encourage you to practice these interactions in your Free U class:

Move forward, move back: if you occupy more societal privileges because of your race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of origin, etc, please "move back" by speaking less in group discussions to allow for the perspectives of more marginalized people to be heard.

"oops" and "ouch": Have you accidentally said something offensive? Say "oops", apologize, and explain what you were trying to express without being offensive. Did someone just offend you with something they said/did? Say "ouch", explain why you were hurt by what they said and ask them to refrain from engaging in that harmful activity again.

if you have found the Free University to be inaccessible or unsafe in any way, we encourage you to approach the Free U hub and let an organizer or volunteer know, or email us at maydaysbu@gmail.com so that we can work to improve this event and future events in the may day coalition!

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Let's be sure to take care of one another, and to take care of ourselves. Here are some resources on the Stony Brook campus for students to take advantage of, free of charge:

SUNY Stony Brook Center for Prevention and Outreach:

<http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/cpo/index.shtml>

SUNY Stony Brook Counseling and Psychological Services:

<http://www.studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/caps/>

Gender neutral bathroom campus map

http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/cpo/safespace_bathrooms.shtml

FROM THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF NYC:

Statement of Intention on Entering the Free University

We enter the space of the Free University with a commitment to:

- Mutual respect and support
- Anti-oppression
- Nonviolence with each other
- Direct democracy

We participants of the Free University:

1. support the empowerment of each person to challenge the histories and structures of oppression that marginalize some, and divide us all. These may include ableism, ageism, classism, heterosexism, racism, religious discrimination, sexism, transphobia, xenophobia, among others.
2. commit to learning about these different forms of oppression.
3. understand individual freedoms are not above our collective safety, well-being, and ability to function cooperatively; individual freedom without responsibility to the community is not the Free University way.
4. seek open and compassionate classrooms.
5. encourage open and non-oppressive dialogues.
6. strive for accessible interchanges of languages, knowledge, and discussions.
7. understand and respect that there are differences among us.
8. expect to listen and be listened to.
9. are confident we can learn without policing or being policed.

Deliberate disruptions, accusations, violence, or other violations of this code are not within the spirit nor the hopes of the Free University.

<3 <3 <3

<3 <3 <3

<3 <3 <3