

## THE GAMA CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

The problems of group life are central to survival in our time, containing as it does, implications for the survival of the species itself in an era torn by the specter of atomic warfare, revolution, genocide, starvation, and overpopulation. Knowledge and mastery of group life are crucial imperatives now.

Yet, the knowledge of the proper balance between involvement in group life and individuality in a viable community was lost in the west with the fall of the classical tradition in the west.

Instead of finding a proper balance between these two needs for individuality and community, western man has oscillated between two extremes; either crushing man into the total community at the cost of destroying individuality, or isolating him from the community in a private prison of individualism.

One of the objects of this learning community is then, the rediscovery of the behavioral realities of the Aristotelian view of membership in a shared ethical community that makes man at once more individual and more communal than he has been since the golden age of the Greek city-state. Membership in an ethical community speaks to an accepted commitment and the development of members who feel a responsibility for the community that extends beyond personal interests, taste, and idiosyncracies.

To accomplish this objective there must be a public agreement with which they identify and which they are concerned to support; even to the point of drinking a Socratic cup of hemlock; that public thing in this program in the constitution, and it is to the rediscovery of this knowledge and mastery of balanced group life that the constitution of this learning community is directed.

Thilli - second Ho  
at 'Constitution'

## I. Obligations

### A. Students

- 1) Read materials on reading list
- 2) Attend and participate in seminars
- 3) Attend films and participate in film discussions
- 4) Participate in other community designated functions
- 5) Choose and work in appropriate intern activities
- 6) ~~Develop projects as interest and the topic dictate~~
- 7) Participate in evaluation procedures
  - i) Of self
  - ii. Of other students in the group
  - iii. Of faculty
  - iv. Of program coordinator
  - v. Of program

Lump together  
Lectures  
Field trips  
Special Interest

### B. Faculty

- 1) Read materials on reading list
- 2) Attend and participate in seminars
- 3) Attend films and participate in film discussions
- 4) Participate in other community designated functions
- 5) Participate in faculty seminars
- 6) ~~Develop new program ideas~~
- 7) Participate in evaluation procedures
  - i. Of self
  - ii. Of students
  - iii. Of other group faculty
  - iv. Of coordinator
  - v. Of Dean
  - vi. Of program

### C. Coordinator

- 1) 1 - 6 above (faculty)
- 2) Participate in program proposal development and writing of catalog copy
- 3) Serve as liason to deans
- 4) Develop program budget
- 5) Schedule events
- 6) Call meetings
- 7) Mediate disputes among team members
- 8) Participate in evaluation procedure
  - i. Of self
  - ii. Of students
  - iii. Of faculty
  - iv. Of deans
  - v. Of program

### D. Seminar group

- 1) Determines how it wants to handle evaluation, writing conferences, writing assignments, distribution of emphasis among various activities, and seminar improvement
- 2) Adds material such as extra books, seminars, field trips, social activities.

### III. Faculty Seminar

- A. Is an activity designed to help improve teaching
- B. Is a place for faculty to discuss books
- C. Is a place where teaching ideas are developed for a given topic
- D. Is not a place where bookkeeping and governance issues are handled

### IV. Resolution of Disputes (*Student Seminar or Faculty*)

- A. When no consensus is reached after a reasonable effort has been made, the dean will mediate. In the absence of consensus, the original constitution is binding.

### V. Changes in the Program

- A. Members of individual seminars are not free to delete or substitute any of the scheduled material (books, films, assemblies, field trips, etc.). Changes must be agreed upon by the faculty team and adopted by all members of the program. Minor program changes - those which do not alter what is in the catalog or do not involve the budget - can be made by the faculty team of the program. Other changes must be approved by a dean.
- B. In the event that consensus cannot be reached on a proposed change, the original contract is binding.