

## **Connecting SDSU to students across South Dakota, all over the United States and around the globe**

In this edition:

Diversity: Difference is Dialogue

Faculty Spotlight: Mary Jo Nesmith

Smarthinking Online Tutoring

SDSU Common Read: *How Does It Feel To Be A Problem?* by Moustafa Bayoumi

Master of Public Health Accreditation

New Programs

- A.S. in Sociology
- A.S. in Construction Technology
- B.S. in Psychology

Orientation for Online Learners

### **Diversity: Difference is Dialogue**

The office of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Access is continuing the Difference is Dialogue series in October. The program is carefully structured to explore social group identity, conflict, community and social justice. Each small-group dialogue will focus on the intersectionality of identities such as race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic class, gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability status or national origin. The program is designed to promote positive intergroup relations among students, staff and community members and improve the campus climate at SDSU.

This program is not a debate. Each group will be led by two trained facilitators who will guide the conversation each week. The program is also not meant to place blame or guilt on a person or group of people. This program provides a place where you can learn from others in the SDSU community, and they can learn from you. While SDSU has had programs like this in the past, this is the first year that distance students will be able to participate. We are excited for you to have the opportunity and hope you take advantage of it! This five-week program will run from October 16th - November 13th. To register, please contact Dr. Nathan Ziegler at [nathan.ziegler@sdstate.edu](mailto:nathan.ziegler@sdstate.edu).

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# CONNECTIONS

## Faculty Spotlight

Mary Jo Nesmith is an online instructor for the Department of Communication Studies at SDSU. She has designed and taught the online SPCM 101 course for over 10 years. Nesmith enjoys observing students find their personal voice and learn to back their claims up with personal evidence through her courses.

However, she understands that it is difficult for some students to be able to complete courses in a traditional classroom. She finds her position very rewarding in that aspect, knowing that she is able to reach those students and interact with them in alternative ways and that her students are able to interact with each other as well, despite distance.

The most prominent of Nesmith's courses is Fundamentals of Speech online. She notes that students who are going to take this course should know that they will be learning the same skills as students who are in a traditional classroom and that they will have to be self-motivated if they want to be successful in the course.



**Mary Jo Nesmith**

## Smarthinking Online Tutoring

Continuing and Distance Education and SDSU have partnered with Smarthinking to provide online tutoring services to SDSU students enrolled in SDSU online courses. Free tutoring is available in a wide-range of subjects to support SDSU online students and courses. Here are some new services being offered:

- **Resume and Cover Letter Review** - offers detailed feedback to help job seekers craft and polish resumes and cover letters to best impact potential employers.
- **Career Writing** - provides personalized reviews of any job search materials - employment profiles, personal statements, application essays - to help students develop their personal branding and stand out in a competitive marketplace.
- **Career Writing Live** - coaches are available in real time to help students through any phase of the application process.
- **Interview Practice** – coaches are available in real time video to help job seekers practice responses to interview questions by serving as mock interviewers.
- **Business Writing** – helps students, job seekers and employers craft professional workplace documents, including memos, letters, emails and proposals.

A detailed list of the topics can be found via [Smarthinking.com](https://smarthinking.com) as well as video tutorials on how to schedule sessions and additional student resources.

[smarthinking.com](https://smarthinking.com)



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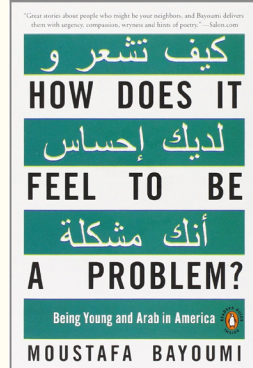
## 2017 Common Read

This year's Common Read is *How Does It Feel To Be A Problem?* by Moustafa Bayoumi. The book is a compilation of short stories from Muslim students living in Brooklyn, New York after the 9/11 tragedy. Their personal recollections reflect the differences in how they were treated before and after 9/11 occurred. Readers have the opportunity to understand, in a very personal setting, how difficult it is to be seen as a threat, despite one's innocence. The themes this book centers around are Perseverance, Exploration, Awareness, Community and Empathy (PEACE).

The Common Read is selected each year by the Common Read Committee. After reading through several books each summer, some recommended by SDSU faculty and some sent in by authors, the committee narrows down and finally picks a book they believe will be beneficial to SDSU's incoming freshman class. Kas Williams, the Program Advisor for African American Programs, is a member of the committee and believes that all students should read Bayoumi's book. "We make assumptions of people without knowing their stories. This book helps you see others as people rather than a group," said Williams.

SDSU has been hosting several events throughout the semester that correlate with the common read. The activities have varied from panels, potlucks and film screenings.

**For more information, visit: [sdstate.edu/common-read](http://sdstate.edu/common-read)**



### GRIFFITH HONORS FORUM LECTURE: Moustafa Bayoumi

November 2, 7-9 p.m., Performing Arts Center  
Award-winning writer, professor English at Brooklyn College and author of the Common Read will share his story at the Griffith Honors Forum Lecture.

**TICKETS**

## Master of Public Health

The online Master of Public Health was accredited this year in an effort to help public health practitioners and leaders to assist with the public health needs of rural communities. In partnership with South Dakota State University, the program includes an inter-professional approach to the five core areas of public health:

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Health Services Administration
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Environmental Health

The Master of Public Health is the only program of its kind in the state and is offered online to meet the needs of a diverse student population. The MPH curricula will be on rural public health, creating a distinct regional and national identity for the program. This program is designed to train students in the core competencies of public health education and prepare them with the knowledge and skills necessary to assume a variety of positions.

## SDSU MPH Program Office

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## New Programs

SDSU is offering new pathways for online degrees in the form of these three new programs: A.S. in Sociology, A.S. in Construction Technology and B.S. in Psychology.

### A.S. in Sociology

This versatile associate's degree provides a foundation of general education courses, along with sociology electives. Students develop an understanding of current social problems related to poverty, inequality, gender, diversity, race, culture, socialization and globalization, as well as demonstrate skills in communication, knowledge in evidence-based practice, research design and data collection.

### A.S. in Construction Technology

The Construction Technology degree prepares students for project support positions in the construction industry. Potential career tracks include pre-construction estimating, worksite team leader, material coordinator and field inspector. The associates of science curriculum combines engineering fundamentals with topics in applied management, engineering design (CAD), accounting and communications. Lessons touch on all aspects of construction including: materials, methods, scheduling, estimating, safety and project management.

### B.S. in Psychology

Psychology is the discipline concerned with the study of behavior and mental processes. It is a tremendously broad field spanning subject matter from the biological to social sciences. The study of psychology prepares students for work in fields like health care, counseling, education, social work, human resources, statistics, probation and corrections, business, politics, public relations and more. Psychologists are commonly found working in conjunction with other professionals to contribute to every area of society. Students interested in a major in psychology may pursue the major with one of two emphases, graduate school preparation and psychological services.

## Orientation for Online Learners

The office of Continuing and Distance Education will be launching Orientation for Online Learners this fall to help students better prepare for the online classroom and their academic career. The orientation was developed in Desire2Learn (D2L) to allow students to navigate the learning management system and utilize the various tools in D2L. The orientation focuses on the following outcomes:

1. Identify SDSU's history, mission and the many ways students may connect with SDSU
2. Recognize the many facets of online learning
3. Communicate effectively in the online environment
4. Identify the available resources and how they will assist the student in the academic environment
5. Utilize the necessary SDSU web applications

The orientation has also been developed so students can select various roles, which will allow access to the most relevant content. All students enrolled in an SDSU online course should have access to the Orientation for Online learners via their D2L homepage mid to late December in time to prepare for the Spring 2018 semester.

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