

Democratic Dialogue Colloquium Series presents:
An evening with Dr. Gordon Lafer

Thursday November 3rd, 2005

7:00 to 8:30 pm

SITE B0138 (800 King Edward Avenue)

From Baghdad to the Bayou

The "War on Terror" and the Shrinking of Democracy

The "War on Terror" is being promoted, in part, as a battle to defend the values of democracy across the globe. In fact, recent evidence from Iraq to New Orleans encourages us to wonder what type of "democracy" the Bush administration is advocating, and raises the spectre that the "War on Terror" itself serves as a vehicle for undermining democratic society, even in the US. How can educators react and respond to such conflicting notions of democracy, both inside and outside the classroom?

8:30 to 9:15

SITE C0136 (800 King Edward Avenue)

Studying the "War on Terror"

A Discussion of Methodological Issues

How do you decide what you believe when you're dealing with something like the Iraq war or domestic "war on terror" when there's no scientific or quantitative method for proving one theory or another of what's going on? How can you have an analysis that is less than scientific proof but more than personal opinion or emotion? As educators, how do you figure out and then talk about the "truth" of controversial issues like this?



Gordon Lafer is Associate Professor of labor studies at University of Oregon's Labor and Education Research Center. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1995, following experience in policy issues as a special asst. for economic develop. in the mayor's office in New York City. Lafer combines an impressive academic background with on-the-ground experience with policy analysis. His recent writing includes: *The Job Training Charade* (Cornell Univ. Press), "The New Prison Labor" in *The American Prospect*, "Yale on Trial: Academic Life in the Age of Downsizing" in *Dissent*, "The Politics of Job Training: Urban Poverty and the False Promise of JTPA. in *Politics and Society* and "Organizing Graduate Students," a widely distributed pamphlet published by *Dissent*.

Sponsored by:

Democratic Dialogue University of Ottawa
Faculty of Education
Collaborative Inquiry into democracy, education and society



Human Rights Research
and Education Centre



University of Ottawa Faculty of Education