

GRID FAQ

1. What is in the Spring 2023 grid?

37 spring study groups:

- 24 in-person (14 twelve-week and 10 six-week)
- 13 Zoom (11 twelve-week and 2 six-week)
- 65% are in-person

51 coordinators including:

- 6 people are coordinating or co-coordinating two study groups
- 4 first-time coordinators – Lynne Davidson, Terry Hamilton, Sara Lishinsky and Alicia Rivin

30 minutes between the morning and noon study groups, giving you more time to socialize and rest between classes.

2. Who decides how many/how few Zoom study groups there will be each semester, versus how many/few in-person classes?

Our coordinators make that decision.

All our coordinators choose whether to lead their study groups on Zoom or in-person. If we didn't accommodate coordinators' choice of venue, we wouldn't be able to offer a full semester of study groups.

3. Why are most of the Zoom study groups scheduled at 2:30?

We don't have access to enough Graduate Center classrooms after 2:00pm. There is limited classroom availability in the afternoons due to competition with other Graduate Center programs. That's why we schedule our in-person classes in the morning and our Zoom classes in the afternoon.

Zoom classes are scheduled at 2:30pm to allow travel time between classes for the LP² members who take both in-person classes and Zoom classes.

We're able to offer limited Zoom study groups on Monday and Friday morning because on those days, travel time is not an issue.

4. What is being done to address the noise coming from music and film study groups?

We know about this problem! Rooms 9205, 9206, and 9207 aren't soundproof. With the help of the Dean's office, we're looking for alternative rooms.

The difficulty is that most of the other rooms available at the Graduate Center seat only 6 to 10 people. Rooms 9205-07 are the largest available.

Meantime, whenever possible this semester, we are keeping the middle room (9206) vacant as a buffer between the other two rooms.

5. Can an in-person study group move to Zoom in the middle of the semester if necessary?

Yes. For example, if the coordinator is sick, the study group can be given on Zoom until the coordinator is able to return to the Graduate Center.

6. How long will LP² continue to offer Zoom study groups?

Our goal is to move all study groups to in-person. However, we realize that not everyone is able to return to in-person classes while a COVID surge is still a threat. 25% of our members took Zoom only classes in the fall semester.

This decision is not driven by the Advisory Board or the Curriculum Committee. We honor each coordinator's preference. The best way to get more in-person or Zoom study groups is to step up and become a coordinator!

7. Why are there so many six-week study groups?

Every coordinator decides whether he/she/they want to present a six-week or a twelve-week study group. Some coordinators find that six weeks is a better fit for their subject matter than twelve weeks. New coordinators may be more comfortable starting with six-week study groups.

For registration purposes, two six-week study groups are the equivalent of one full study group. Many members register for 2 ½ or 3 ½ study groups.

8. What can we do to improve our sense of community in the Graduate Center?

All of us miss the very lively extra-curricular LP² community we had before COVID. The Advisory Board is working on options to help restore it.

Three suggestions that are steps in the right direction:

- Gather with other members before and/or between in-person classes in the Graduate Center Dining Commons (8th floor). It's a big, beautiful space -- a very good place to schmooze with friends over take-out snacks or a late lunch. For a great selection of take-out food, try ETC Eatery at 345 Fifth Avenue between 33rd and 34th Street; Pret a Manger, NE corner of 5th Ave. and 35th St.; or Le Pain Quotidien, NW Corner Fifth Ave and 36th St.
- Meet friends in the newly opened Foundation Lounge (1st floor), which has a vending machine and a microwave.
- Or visit the First Desk (Room 8309, 8th floor), where you can always find LP² company before and between classes.