**How to Talk to a Conspiracy Theorist**

**Course Description:**

Conspiracy theories have been with us for thousands of years. From the Black Death to the Salem witchcraft trials, from the September 11th attacks to the Qanon fabrications, people have wondered and worried about the possibility that there are secret, powerful, and often sinister shadowy forces behind the scenes controlling what happens in the world. As they are not based on verified facts, are often complex, and are not falsifiable, these widespread beliefs present serious problems to shared discussion. Perhaps you know a conspiracy theorist. Perhaps, it’s a member of your family. In this class, we will find that it is possible to have meaningful dialogue with conspiracy theorists. And this is what we want to be able to do more successfully – because they are our brothers and sisters, or parents, or kids, or neighbours, or anybody.