A protocol is a predefined written procedural method in the design and implementation of experiments in the natural science in order to standardize a laboratory method to ensure successful replication of results by others. Detailed protocols also facilitate assessment of results through peer review.

There is no doubt that discussion (and debate) is a useful pedagogical tool for an interactive and spontaneous communication between two or more people. In pedagogical settings, it also serves as a great pedagogical tool to stimulate students to involve in the class by sharing, exchanging, cross-checking and solidifying information and knowledge on target topic. However, some critical problems of conventional discussion activity have also been pointed out by instructors and researchers regarding its efficiency and effectiveness, especially with special focus on the manner and attitude of participating students and the assessment scheme: i.e. domination by a few members, language proficiency issues, limitation of class size for discussion, and lack of objective assessment scheme.

In this presentation, a case study on team protocol method (TPM hereafter), a moderately modified one to challenge the defects mentioned above, will be introduced. Specifically speaking, TPM has been adopted and implemented for group discussion sessions of subject course(s) mediated in English in EFL setting at the college level to stimulate and encourage students to be more actively and voluntarily involved in the discussion. Exact procedures, components and related schemes of TPM are fully described and explored. Pros and cons of TPM are to be discussed, too. For actual illustration, authentic video clips from real in-class discussion sessions, actual protocol reports compiled and submitted by student protocol-keepers will be presented. Finally, other course related materials and actual course evaluation are provided.

Light refreshments will be served.

For further information, please contact Mee-Jeong Park (meejeong@hawaii.edu) or Saeko Shibayama (sshiba@hawaii.edu). This talk is open to the public and funded by the EALL Enrichment Fund.