DPLS 774 Leadership & the Art of Presence

Fall 2011 3 Credits
Tilford 117
Class Dates: 9/9, 9/23, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2
Fridays 6:00PM - 10:00 PM
Rev. Dr. Silvia Behrend

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School and Department Theme Statement:
The Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies and the School of Professional Studies at Gonzaga University seek to build "people for others," people able to define their own sense of identity, live within a moral framework, and articulate and advance social justice.

Course Overview
Our mission is predicated on teaching to the whole person; mind, body and spirit. This requires a dynamic pedagogy that unites the theoretical/conceptual with the experiential. This class is specifically designed to explore the praxis of presence through creativity and reflection by grounding experience in theory.

Transformational and servant leadership theories are clear about the need for the leader to undergo the personal process of self-awareness and transformation. Their goal is not to transform others, which may be paternalistic or hierarchical, rather it is to use their own experience of transformation to lead with integrity and authenticity. An end result might be that others experience transformation, but that would be a product of the leader providing possibilities for potential change - not mandating transformation. It is the leader's authentic presence that offers others a glimpse into what may be possible for others.

Course Goals
The goal of this course is to practice the art of awareness and presence in order to experience an authentic encounter between self and other. It is a process that requires self-knowledge and self-acceptance. This process is paradoxical: one must know the self (all of it), and learn to let go of the self to be fully present. We will engage this process I through direct experience and practice, with knowledge and knowing, with doing and being.

Creativity is one of the ways that the self can learn to become more present. The act of creation requires the full attention of the self, at the same time that the self can disappear in the creative moment.

This course addresses the issue of presence from three perspectives:
1. Creativity is a habit that is necessary to incorporate into our lives for success, regardless of occupation (Tharp and May).
2. Wisdom literature from the world's religions provide insight into the praxis of presence. (Hahn/ Mairs/Remen/Kornfield/Helmisnky)

3. Direct experience may create an environment for awareness and transformation to occur. We will work with Sumi-e artist, Keiko Von Holt in the traditional Sumi-e Black Ink Painting.

- **Sumi-e** means: *Black Ink Painting*. Black ink on white paper, simple, elegant and serene. Simplicity is the most outstanding characteristic of Sumi-e. An economy of brush strokes are used to communicate the essence of the subject.
- Keiko Von Holt has been teaching the art of Sumi-e for the past twenty years. Her work can be seen at the Avenue West Gallery in Spokane and on this site: [http://www.studioarttour.com/index.php/artists/keiko_von_holt/](http://www.studioarttour.com/index.php/artists/keiko_von_holt/)
- Keiko Von Holt will hold a one hour introduction to the Four Treasures (the four instruments used in the sumi-e) as well as to the Four Gentlemen: Orchid, Bamboo, Chrysanthemum, and Plum Blossom on September 9, 2011.
- She will then teach technique and philosophy of Sumi-e for two hours each class on the following dates: 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, and 11/4
- Class fee is $150 for the nine hours of instruction and all supplies which are yours to keep after the class. Payable to Silvia Behrend the first day of class.

Students will maintain a journal practice throughout the class. These journals **will not** be shared with the class: they will be sent to me by the due date noted in the assignment section. All journaling is kept confidential. Journaling means that you will sit and reflect on what you are reading, apply it to your own life and understanding and write no fewer than one full page and not more than three pages. These journals can be done on your computer and sent to me via email or, if you prefer, you can hand in a written journal. If you choose to write, please write legibly. They will not be posted on Blackboard. Email journals to behrend@ Gonzaga.edu.

**Required texts**


**Recommended Texts: Choose two from this list**


**Assignments**

**Due: September 9**  
Helminski, Kabir. *Living Presence*. This must be read prior to class. Read and reflect on the definition of self/Self and what it means to you in your relationships at home, at work and in your studies. Journal for a minimum of seven days and send to behrend@gonzaga.edu. Start working on the Tharp assignment.

**Due: September 23:**  
Be prepared to discuss the main themes. There is no written assignment.

**Due: September 30**  
Tharp, Twyla. *The Creative Habit, Learn It and Use it for Life*.  
Tharp provides thirty exercises to get creativity going. As you read the book, choose the exercises that most speak to your life, do them and journal about the experience. behrend@gonzaga.edu

**Due: October 14**  
Reflect on the stories and themes in one of the recommended texts that most speak to your ongoing experience with the art of presence and integrate that with the work on sumi-e painting.

**Due: November 18**  
Reflect on the stories and themes in one of the recommended texts that most speak to your ongoing experience with the art of presence and integrate that with the work on sumi-e painting.

**Due: November 18 and December 2**  
Final presentations due. Based on the readings, your praxis in and out of the classroom, your journals and your own philosophy of leadership, create a twenty-minute presentation relying more on your creativity than on the spoken word. We will discuss this more in depth in class.

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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Assignment due:</th>
<th>Theme:</th>
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| September 9 | DUE: Helminski  
Start Tharp journal | Presence and Preparation |
| September 23 | Discussion of Rollo May | The courage to create  
Introduction to Sumi-e |
| September 30 | Tharp Journal due | Sumi-e painting |
| October 14 | DUE: Journal | Sumi-e painting |
| October 28 | Journal on book of choice | Sumi-e painting |
| November 11 | Journal on book of choice | Sumi-e painting |
| November 18 | Due: Journal  
Final Presentations | Integration of theories and praxis |
| December 2 | Final Presentations | Integration of theories and praxis |

The above is subject to change.
Assumptions about grading and attendance:
I assume that:

- Students in this and any other doctoral level class have the required expertise to comply with Gonzaga's and the Doctoral Leadership Studies Program grading and honor system.
- Students are able to write cogently, accurately and in accordance to the APA guidelines.
- Students have appropriately scheduled to attend every class. If you have an emergency, please inform me as soon as possible. I follow departmental policies regarding absences. An Incomplete will be given if students are absent two or more times and/or assignments are not turned in on time.
- Students know whether they are putting forth their best, good or mediocre efforts in terms of attendance and participation.
- We all know what excellent work looks like (A), what good work looks like (B), and what more marginal work looks like (C). It is my expectation that students will receive an A or an Incomplete.
- I am available to discuss students' progress at any time during the course, please email me at behrend@gonzaga.edu

References