DPLS 776 Leadership, Authenticity & Hospitality

Spring 2011 3 Credits
St. Joseph Family Center
http://www.stjosephfamilycenter.org
Friday, March 11th at 8:00 am - Sunday March 13 at 5:00 pm
Rev. Dr. Silvia Behrend
Office hours: by appointment: 360 259 3971
Email: behrend@gonzage.edu

Conceptual Framework
There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence. . . [and that is] activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.

To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence.

The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.

Thomas Merton: Trappist monk, social activist, mystic, priest and monk, Thomas Merton points out the violence we do to ourselves when we fail to take time for retreat and sanctuary (Heifetz 1994) to refresh spirit, mind and soul. If, indeed, as our mission statement states, our work is to "develop the critical imagination required to embrace individual, organizational, and global change from a stance of hope and courage." (Mission Statement) we must find ways to rest and renew. Effective leaders need a place and a time to consider their inner life and find inspiration to continue the difficult work of leading to transform the world.

This class is designed to provide a structure for rest and contemplation based on Judaism's understanding that the Sabbath is more than simply a time to rest from secular work, it is an obligation to enter sacred time, devoted to learning and discussion of what is core to the community. Because hospitality is a central value to the community, the subject of discussion for the Sabbath will be our understanding of servant and transformational leadership in a multicultural, technologically mobile and diverse world.

Some of the questions we will address are: Who is the stranger in our organization? How are people made to feel welcome? Who has the power to include or exclude? How do we create communities in a multicultural environment? How does globalization affect our notions of hospitality? How do we create welcome environments using information technology?

The retreat will be held at St. Joseph Family Center http://www.stjosephfamilycenter.org starting Friday, March 11 at 8:00 am and ending on March 13 at 5:00 p.m. We will stay in two houses with 17 bedrooms, each person will have their own room. We will have use of the
kitchen, conference room, laundry facilities, etc. The activity fee of $225.00 will cover the use of the facility, 2 overnight stays and all food and drink for three full days. This fee is payable to Silvia Behrend on Friday night before the retreat starts. (No money exchanged on the Sabbath!) This retreat is limited to 16 participants.

Required Readings

- Molz, J. & Gibson, S. (Eds.) (2007). Mobilizing Hospitality: The Ethics of Social Relations in a Mobile World. The reading will be posted on BB.

There will be several articles posted on BB by January 1, 2011 to supplement this reading list. You are responsible for checking your account. I will send an email to all registered students when the articles are posted.

Assignments

February 1 - March 11, 2011
Muller, Wayne (1999). Sabbath, Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight In our Busy Lives. New York: Bantam. Wayne Muller suggests activities, exercises, and options to develop a rhythm of rest and work. As you read the book, choose those that appeal to your sensibility and maintain a written journal of your experience. The entries are to be no fewer than one (1) page or more than three (3) pages in length per day. I encourage you to use a paper journal instead of typing into the computer. Feel free to use any art form: colored pencils, markers, collage, watercolor, etc. This journal will be due on Friday the 11th at 8:00 am. Please bring a Self Addressed mailer if you want me to mail them back to you or they will be available to be picked up from the office by the end of March. If you have any questions about this assignment, feel free to email me at behrend@gonzaga.edu or call me at 360 259 3971.

March 4, 2011
Molz, J. & Gibson, S. (Eds.) (2007). Mobilizing Hospitality: The Ethics of Social Relations in a Mobile World. The introduction of the book offers an overview of the myriad issues involved in hospitality. Read the introduction and choose one of the themes that most speaks to you. Research that theme and write a 3-5-page paper that addresses that theme in your own life/work/experience. Due: Email your paper at behrend@gonzaga.edu. If you have any questions, you can also call me at 360-259-3971.

By March 11, 2011
April 14, 2011

Final Assignment:
Write a 5-7-page paper integrating the pre-retreat journaling, the retreat experience itself with issues of hospitality in your work/organizational/personal life. What are the conflicting issues of hospitality that need to be addressed? We will discuss this final in more detail at the retreat.

Information about the retreat
The retreat takes place at the St Joseph Family Center, begins promptly at 8:00 am on Friday, March 11th, and ends at 5:00 pm on Sunday the 13th. We will gather for breakfast at 8:00 am. The cost covers overnight stays on Friday and Saturday. If you wish to arrive on Thursday, please contact Sharon Eklund (509-483-6495) to arrange for your Thursday night stay separately. The overnight rate is $40.

This is an overnight retreat, please bring appropriate sleeping clothing and personal hygiene. Each person will have her or his own bedroom.

We will cook in teams and clean up in teams. We are responsible for leaving the center clean. This class is specifically designed as a retreat, therefore, it is crucial that students be prepared to participate fully and be prepared to discuss the material assigned. Unless you are on call for specific reasons, phones and other forms of communication are strongly discouraged.

The only grades given will be an A or an incomplete. Failure to turn in the written assignment on time or lack of preparation will result in an Incomplete.

The cost per person is $225 includes two overnight stay, all meals, material and refreshments. The fee is payable to Silvia Behrend before the beginning of our time together.

References