DPLS 721 Leadership & Aesthetics

Summer 2010 3 Credits
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Class dates and Time: 1-5 PM: 6/7-10 and 6/14-17

Conceptual Framework
Leadership requires knowledge and acceptance of the self, as well as movement towards growth and wholeness. There are many aspects to how we know our authentic self, how we interact and perceive other's authentic selves and how we are capable of being changed by a true encounter. The methodology for exploring aesthetics and creativity will be stone carving combined with periods of movement meditation reflection and journaling.

There are three aspects to this class that we will consider and reflect upon:

• Engaging in the creative process allows us to experience ourselves in a different way. We will look at the new sciences and field theory to explore the form of the encounter between creator and created. This is based on Conforti's work.
• Aesthetics, in this context, is understood as the congruence among the material, the internal and the spiritual (or archetypal). We will ask what it might mean to be a creator in the image of the holy and what the implications for our lives are. This is based on L'Engle's book
• Creativity is the means by which we reveal ourselves: this requires an understanding of form and risk. Creating a sculpture will test our ability to risk showing up and playing. This is based on Nachmanovitch's work.

There is no requirement for any kind of previous artistic experience; each meeting with the stone is an individual encounter. Students who have taken the Leadership and Arts Based Understanding class may take this class again. The theoretical engagement is different.

Important information for the class
Students will need to wear clothing which will get dusty and dirty. If there are any special needs, please advice me with plenty of time so I can make sure that you have what you need. Email me at behrend@gonzaga.edu with any questions or support requirements.
An $85.00 materials fee payable on the first day of class made out to Silvia Behrend will cover: stone, safety equipment (glasses, gloves, face masks, ear protection) files and the use of all carving tools and finishing supplies.

Course Requirements
Students will:
• Complete all reading assignments and reflections before the start of class- due dates are May 7, May 21, and June 4. These will be sent to me at behrend@gonzaga.edu and will not be shared on BB for others to read.
• Send the completed journals on the due date
• Maintain a regular reflection practice during the class, this can be in journal format, in poetry or prose.
• The final will be a written artists statement that will incorporate your experience with the carving as well as the engagement with the texts. This will be due the last day of class and will be shared with the class.

**Required texts**

- Your choice of one book or anthology of poetry. Come prepared the first class with one poem to share.

**Assignments Due before class starts**

Keep a weekly journal as you engage with each text. Instead of one final paper per text, I want you to explore and process what you are reading as you read it. Use the pages to ask questions, to ruminate, to argue, whatever comes to mind as you engage the text. Each daily entry must be at least two double spaced pages with a maximum of four pages per day. A week is a total of seven days. You may use any amount of time to read the book, the requirement is seven entries per text.

Due dates for the journals are:

- May 7
- May 21
- June 4

Be familiar with one book or collection of poetry of your choice. We will use the poems on the first day of class.

You will continue daily journaling for the two weeks we meet in class.

**Final Assignment:**

Write an artist statement. There will be a template on Blackboard to help you articulate the process and the meaning of your piece. This statement will be due the final day of class, June 17th.

**Methodology:**

The class will follow roughly the same format each time we meet:

- Movement meditation
- Reflection on the process/themes
- Stone work
- Reflection
This class has at its core the implicit and now explicit understanding that together we will create the community and the address the needs of the individuals as we create together. Thus, anything is subject to change and revision (except the assigned texts and assignments.)

**Grading**
There are only two grades given in this class: An A or an Incomplete. Anyone not turning in the required assignments on time will receive an Incomplete. I follow department policy on absences resulting in Incompletes. If you have a medical or family emergency, please let me know as soon as possible. I welcome the opportunity to journey together with other souls in search of authenticity. May the stones speak to you so that you may respond with love.