

**Northern Lights:  
Illuminating Norwegian Culture, Environment, & School Connections  
0836-480**

**Instructors: Dr. Rob Linné and Dr. Mary Jean McCarthy**

**Course Rationale**

Place-based learning encapsulates many teaching methods theorized within overlapping frameworks. Known variously as *experiential learning*, *environmental education*, *discovery learning*, and *the environment as integrating context model (EIC)*, active engagement with local environments is the central organizing principle. We see the methods of place-based learning employed, to varying degrees, in a variety of contemporary settings: European-style “Forest Schools” where children spend most of the school day learning outside, edible schoolyard gardens that are trending across the New York metropolitan region, “Tinkergarten” schools for experiential learning embedded within Brooklyn parks, and even boats plying the Long Island Sound with young citizen scientists. Though the environments and institutional missions vary, they all share a common set of beliefs: young people often learn best when exploring their local communities and natural environments; such explorations foster healthy physical, emotional, and academic development; and joyous learning experiences in nature offer the best hope for educating a generation of people motivated to save the planet.

The Scandinavian Model of education often exemplifies the best of Place-Based Learning. We will visit multiple education sites in Tromsø, Norway to explore how nature and culture are central to all school experiences within this model.

**Course Objectives**

Students will:

- 1) Learn the theory and research underlying Place-Based Education.
- 2) Explore how the Scandinavian Model of education exemplifies the elements of Place-Based learning.
- 3) Actively engage and reflect upon learning in local heritage, culture, landscape, and Place-Based pedagogical methods.
- 4) Understand the central role of local knowledge (including indigenous knowledge) in the Scandinavian Model.

- 5) Explore strategies to connect local communities and environments with curriculum.
- 6) Examine spaces for connecting the arts, humanities, and science that pedagogies open up.
- 7) Experience intersection of creative and scientific discourses through writing workshops, journaling, an artistic expression as a means of reflection and discovery.

## **Course Description**

The course is designed to model the active engagement and inquiry in place-based learning emphasizing the Scandinavian Model. The first two sessions will take place during Cycle 3, 2019, and will include visits to local sites that engage in experiential, outdoor learning. Exploratory session will take place at Crossroads Farm and Operation SPLASH (Stop Polluting Littering and Save Harbors.) Each of these sessions will offer an introduction to aspects of Place-Based pedagogies. Our exploration will culminate with a visit above the Arctic Circle where we will observe how Place-Based learning is enacted in Scandinavia, which is widely understood as the leading region for quality place-based education programs. We will visit schools including those of Sami students and observe how local knowledge and engagement with nature centers most learning. We will include nature excursions that incorporate both arts-based and scientific naturalistic means of responding to nature.

### University Statement of Accommodations and Adaptations

If you have a disability that may significantly impact your ability to carry out assigned coursework, please contact the Student Access Office (SAO) at 516-877-3145 or send an email to [sao@adelphi.edu](mailto:sao@adelphi.edu). The staff will review your concerns and determine, with you, appropriate and necessary accommodations. Please allow for a reasonable time frame for requesting ASL Interpreters or Transcription Services.

### University Statement on Academic Honesty and Integrity

You are expected to behave at the highest level of academic integrity. Cheating and other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated and will receive proper disciplinary action from the university. Classroom behavior that interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or ability of students to benefit from instruction will not be tolerated. All beepers and cellular phones should be turned off while class is in session. You are expected to come to class prepared- this means having read and studied the assigned chapters before class. By having

prepared in this manner, you will be able to maximize your time spent in class.

### Use of Student Work

All teacher education programs in New York undergo periodic reviews by accreditation agencies and the state education department. For these purposes, samples of students' work are made available to those professionals conducting the review. Student anonymity is assured under these circumstances. If you do not wish to have your work made available for these purposes, please let me know before the start of the second class. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### **Assessment:**

**30% Students will work in groups to research and prepare presentation for University of the Arctic, Tromsø peers on place-based learning taking place in our region. Students will choose from: a particular school (approved in advance of investing efforts so diversity of schools are represented), Operation SPLASH or Herstory writing program for ELL students.**

**30% Journal. Will combine elements of scientific field journal, academic learning reflection journal, and creative writing journal.**

**30% Collaborative project with UiT students. District site visits comparative education reflections.**

**10% Participation, Team-building, Leadership skills.**

### **Course Outline**

#### Pre trip Session 1 (Long Island) 4 hours

We begin with a visit to Operation SPLASH (Stop Polluting Littering and Save Harbors) in Freeport. After some service work, students will engage in reflective writing and a discussion introducing the conceptual framework of Place-Based Education. Citizen-scientist model of service-learning and environmental education will be explored.

Learn about Long Island's geology and topography (including its formation from glaciation), hydrology and ecology. Students will then compare and contrast with Norway.

Visit to Operation SPLASH (Stop Polluting Littering and Save Harbors) Freeport, NY

<http://www.operationsplash.net>

Contact- Devorah Crupar, Education Coordinator

[DevorahCrupar@aol.com](mailto:DevorahCrupar@aol.com)

Since its founding in 1990, Operation SPLASH has grown from 1 caring person to several thousand concerned members, in 7 chapters dotted all along Long Island's South Shore. Our 6 SPLASH boats run from March through November and are operated by volunteer captains and crew members.

SPLASH boats patrol our local waterways. Over the past three decades, our Volunteers have rescued more than 2,000,000 pounds of trash, marine debris and navigational hazards from our bays, beaches and waterways. Most of what we pull from the water comes from the land around us — through storm drains and from storms blowing debris into the water. SPLASH has also designed and maintains the award-winning Mill Basin Debris Trap.

SPLASH's award-winning SPLASH education program is teaching thousands of students each year about the importance of our South Shore Bays and the challenges that they face. Students of all ages, from elementary school through college, enjoy the classroom program, the bay tour by boat, the trip down the Nautical Mile.

Adelphi students will learn of Citizen Science Adopt A Storm Drain (grade 2) program, Meadowbrook Corridor Challenge (middle school)

#### Pre-trip Session 2 (Long Island) 3 hours

Experiential learning at Crossroads Farm in Malverne.

Students will work on a project at the farm and then explore how such service may lead to curriculum development.

Experiential learning at Crossroads Farm at Grossmann's Malverne, NY

<http://www.xroadsfarmliny.com/>

Contact- Judi Consigli, Project Manager

[judi@nassaulandtrust.org](mailto:judi@nassaulandtrust.org)

What happens when kids get their hands dirty? How does our food get from farm to table?

Adelphi students learn of passion for teaching and learning sustainable agriculture.

This land was a landmark of Long Island agricultural tradition for generations of visitors. When the land was put up for sale, the non-profit organization, the Nassau Land Trust nominated the property to be purchased by Nassau County through the 2006 Environmental Bond Act. Thanks to the County's purchase, the

farm was saved from development and the non-profit Nassau Land Trust consisting of a 100% volunteer board of directors continues to manage the day-to-day operations of the farm.

Students will learn overview of the classes and workshops for children and adults ranging from farming basics to advanced biodynamic and biointensive practices will be.

Students will discuss goals of this farm-based education program - to introduce children and adults to the world of nature and invite them to join in the activities and work that makes the farm grow. Questions to explore include: How can a farm serve as a model for not only farm renewal but for social/community and educational restoration? What are the effects on social emotional/physical and intellectual health when we foster a connection between people and nature? How can experiences be a seed for a lifetime of learning from Nature and confidence in growing food and landscapes?

Students will learn farm history, work a farm chore, journal write, draw, paint and explore how such experiential learning can connect meaningfully to “required” curriculum.

3 hours

### Week in Tromsø, Norway

#### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

##### **Friday, March 8**

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TBD                      Arrive at JFK airport and check in

Evening                      TBD flight departs USA for Oslo and connecting flight to Tromsø, Norway

##### **Saturday, March 9**

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TBD                      Arrive in Oslo International Airport  
*Students should change money at the Oslo airport or have done so stateside because they will need to pay for a taxi upon arrival.*

Dinner	Students eat dinner on their own in the Oslo Airport.
Evening	Arrive in Airport
TBD	<p>Transportation to Hotel</p> <p><i>Students will travel in small groups via public taxis from the airport to the hotel. The estimated cost is 200NOK (US\$25), which will be paid by the students.</i></p>
TBD	<p>Check-in to Sydspissen Hotel</p> <p><b>Sydspissen Hotel</b>  Strandvegen 166  9006 Tromsø, Norway  <a href="http://mobile.dudasite.com/site/sydspissenhotel">http://mobile.dudasite.com/site/sydspissenhotel</a></p>

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### Sunday, March 10

Breakfast	Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.
TBD	<p><b>Visit University Museum</b></p> <p><i>Students walk as a group from the hotel (10 mins). Students pay for museum entry ticket about 60NOK (US\$7).</i></p>
Lunch	Students eat lunch at their own expense in the museum café.
TBD	Return to the hotel to rest.
TBD	<p><b>Depart for Sami Camp</b></p> <p><i>Students will take a tour of the Lyngen Alp mountains and participate in reindeer sledding. Bus ride estimated to take 45 minutes. Students will eat dinner as a group at the Sami Camp and the cost is included in the program.</i></p>

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### Monday, March 11

Breakfast	Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.
TBD	<p><b>School Visit to Tusseladden Friluftsbarnhage Kindergarten in Tromsø</b></p> <p><i>Group will travel to the school via public bus. Students will purchase a weekly bus pass for 50 NOK upon arrival.</i></p>

Lunch	Adelphi students join kindergarten students for lunch. <i>Adelphi students should buy lunch at the local supermarket to bring with them.</i>
TBD	Depart kindergarten via public bus and return to the hotel
TBD	<b>School Visit to The University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway</b> <i>Group walks to University of Tromsø. Students will meet with professors &amp; students at Breivika Campus and discuss education system in Long Island/NY/USA/Norway/Europe.</i>
Dinner	Students eat dinner on their own and at their own expense.
7:00pm	<b>Northern Lights Tour</b> <i>Seven hour Artic nature tour outside of Tromsø</i>

## **Tuesday, March 12**

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Breakfast	Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.
Free Morning	Students have a free morning to rest after the late night.
Lunch	Students eat lunch on their own and at their own expense.
TBD	Meet in hotel lobby to take public bus to school visits.
TBD	<b>School Visits: Group 1: Sommerlyst Kkole Middle School</b> <b>Group 2: Kongsbakken Upper Secondary School</b>
Dinner	Students eat dinner on their own and at their own expense.

## **Wednesday, March 13**

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Breakfast	Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.
TBD	Meet in hotel lobby to take private bus to Brensholmen and Sommaroy Torghatten bus will take approximately 1.5 hours
TBD	<b>School Visit to Hillesoyksolen School</b>

Lunch                      Students eat at their own expense at the student cafeteria.

Dinner                     Group Dinner in Sommaroy  
*The cost of this meal is included in the program.*

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**Thursday, March 14**

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Breakfast                 Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.

TBD                        Meet in hotel lobby to take Tromsø University bus to TBD rural school

TBD                        **District School Visit**  
*Professor Annfrid Steele and UiT students will accompany the group.*  
Students will eat lunch at their own expense in the school cafeteria.

TBD                        Return to hotel

Dinner                     Students eat dinner on their own and at their own expense.

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**Friday, March 15**

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Breakfast                 Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.

TBD                        Meet in hotel lobby to take bus

**TBD                        Morning Excursion: Students participate in one of the following activities: cross country skiing, ice fishing or whale watching**

Lunch                      Students eat lunch at their own expense

TBD                        **Discussion/Debrief/Social Time with UiT students & faculty**

TBD                        Group Farewell Dinner  
*This meal is included in the program cost.*

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**Saturday, March 16**

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Breakfast                 Students eat breakfast provided by hotel on their own.



TBD	Check out of Hotel
TBD	Return flight to USA
TBD	Students travel in small groups via public taxi to Tromso Airport
TBD	Flight departs from Tromso to Oslo
TBD	Flight departs from Oslo to JFK

Post trip- 2 hour Debrief Session on Adelphi's campus

## Course Products

**Students will work in groups to research and prepare presentation for University of the Arctic, Tromso peers on place-based learning taking place in our region. Students will choose from: a particular school or Operation SPLASH or Herstory writing program for ELL students.**

Students will keep a cherished journal containing all field notes, creative, sketches, reflections, and course written activities. Students will finish journal with a culminating reflection and compile a portfolio of work taken to final draft level.

Students will work in groups to develop a place-based learning unit that links study of the Arctic Circle with local environmental issues facing Long Island and the Eastern Seaboard.

## Course Readings

### References

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