

**The Department of Art and Art History
Adelphi University**

0803-203-01

0104-386-002 Arts as a Tool in Post-Conflict Settings: Kosovo

Spring 2018

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Office hours (320 Blodgett):

Monday: 12:00 – 2:00

Tues: 2:30-4:30

Wed: 2:30 – 4:30

To be fully alive, fully human, and completely awake is to be continually thrown out of the nest.

Pema Chodron

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Open to every student of the University, this course takes you to Suhareka, Kosovo for an exploration and study of the role of the arts in post-conflict settings. Suhareka found itself in the center of the 1999 Kosovo War sustaining major damage including wide-spread instances of ethnic cleansing and disappearances. Over 90% of the homes were destroyed and virtually everyone in the community lost friends and relatives to the violence. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, but is still unrecognized as an independent state by several other key countries making it difficult for Kosovars to participate in a variety of economic and cultural-building activities.

Our course will explore the possibilities of cultural and community development through the arts in an area of the world that has been at the cross roads of multiple cultures including Byzantine, Ottoman, Serbian and Albanian.

The course partners with teaching artists from the Fell-Bach Haus Community Center in Suhareka. We design and facilitate visual and/or performing arts projects for local children and youth aimed at personal growth as well as future economic benefit to the community. The integration of the arts and culture with the historical, political, economic and social aspects of Kosovo will form the basis for the work and research and includes time for students to choose guided or self-guided explorations of important cultural centers in the region. The course culminates with a community and web-based exhibition of the visual and performing arts work curated by you and the children and youth at Fell-Bach Haus. Other localities visited include Prizren and Prishtina.

GEN ED LEARNING GOALS/DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS:

Distribution Requirements: Art

COURSE LEARNING GOALS: Students will

- Understand a range of artistic processes/materials/issues/ideas/questions related to visual culture and international development in post-conflict settings and how this relates to their own creative and civic-engagement processes.
- Examine the history and current events of Kosovo within the Balkan context.
- Co-create a series of individual and collaborative artwork/performances and artistic practices

for elementary and secondary age children and youth that work with a variety of conceptual ideas/content this is grounded in the contemporary context.

- Collaboratively create, with the children and youth, a final community exhibition showcasing the projects for the local community
- Collaboratively create and participate in an open-blog documenting the experience from planning through final reflection.
- Drawing upon the creativity and critical thinking abilities of class members, create meaningful discussions, artwork and written-reflections on both the traditions and possibilities of the arts in international development in post-conflict settings and in the field of contemporary art.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, and are not enrolled in the Learning Disabilities Program, it is important that you contact the staff in the Disability Support Services Office (DSS), University Center, Room 310, (516) 877-3145. DSS@adelphi.edu. DSS will review your concerns and determine, with you, appropriate and necessary accommodations. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

HONOR CODE STATEMENT: Students enrolled in this course are expected to abide by the Adelphi University Honor Code. The purpose of the Honor Code is to protect the academic integrity of the University by encouraging consistent ethical behavior in assigned coursework by students. Following is excerpted from the Student Honor Code:

The Code of Academic Honesty

The code of academic honesty prohibits behavior, which can broadly be described as lying, cheating, or stealing. Violations of the code of academic honesty will include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Fabricating data or citations
2. Collaborating in areas prohibited by the professor
3. Unauthorized multiple submission of work
4. Sabotage of others' work, including library vandalism or manipulation
5. Plagiarism: presenting any work as one's own that is not one's own
6. The creation of unfair advantage
7. The facilitation of dishonesty
8. Tampering with or falsifying records
9. Cheating on examinations through the use of written materials or giving or receiving help in any form during the exam, including talking, signals, electronic devices, etc.

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS: During the last two weeks of the class, you will receive notification, via email and eCampus, that the course evaluation is available for your input electronically. Availability will end at the start of the final examination period. Your feedback is valuable and I encourage you to respond. Please be assured that your responses are anonymous and the results will not be available to the instructor until after the end of the semester and therefore after course grades have been submitted.

MOODLE: The course syllabus, all assignments, readings, and power-point lectures will be posted on Moodle. <http://fcpe.adelphi.edu/moodle/student/>

COURSE OR MATERIALS FEES: None

ASSIGNMENTS/COURSEWORK:

Each day in the field you are expected to work on the art project(s) with children and/or youth, updating course blog and reading/viewing assigned texts both in the field – as a team member and independently.

- **Week-long visual and/or performing arts workshop**
- **Sketchbook/blog:** documenting and uploading ideas, processes, photos, notes, etc. This is a daily exercise that is self-directed and informed by our work in the field, your own artmaking outside of class, links you make between the work in the field, articles, websites assigned, etc.
- **Final Community Exhibition at Fellbach-Haus** and documented on course blog.
- **Final Reflective Visual and Text Narrative**

TEXTS:

- Goldbard, A. (2013). "The culture of possibility: Art, artists and the future"
- Assigned articles/websites on Moodle, the web, and/or handouts.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

- Attendance, in-class participation at the site 50%
- Sketchbook/blog postings 25%
- Final Paper 25%
- You are responsible for all the information presented in this syllabus. That includes materials, assignments and deadlines. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNLESS THERE IS A SERIOUS REASON SUCH AS A MEDICAL NECESSITY.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is required and important to enable your completion of assignments, which involves in-class dialogue and activities. You must attend all of the scheduled classes, at Adelphi and in Kosovo to receive full credit.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Only students who are registered for courses, and whose name appears on the Official Class Roster may attend courses at the University. Adelphi students make a commitment to be active participants in their educational program; class attendance is an integral part of this commitment. Attendance requirements for each course will be announced by the faculty member at the beginning of each term. Students are expected to be present promptly at the beginning of each class period, unless prevented by illness or by other compelling cause. In the event of such absence, students may request that faculty members be notified by the Office of Academic Services and Retention. Students are responsible for completing course work missed through absences. Students should wait a reasonable length of time for an instructor in the event that the instructor is delayed.]

Supplies:

COURSE TOPICS OUTLINE

*Syllabus assignments and scheduling are flexible – professor may adjust to accommodate class needs.

Weekly Schedule

Session 1 DATE TBA prior to trip

2.5 hours

Discussion:

- Introduction to the region
- introduction to art as a tool for change

- View selections from Acting together on the world stage: Performance and the creative transformation of conflict.

Homework

- Initial brainstorm and write up of ideas for projects and research linked to the region/arts with a partner. Upload to Moodle
- Read:
 - Malcolm, N. (2002). Preface, introduction, and Ch. 17 in *Kosovo: A short history*. Oxford: Pan Books.
 - International Crisis Group. 2000. "Reality Demands: Documenting Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Kosovo 1999". Retrieved from <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/balkans/kosovo/reality-demands-documenting-violations-of-international-humanitarian-law-in-kosovo-1999.aspx>
 - Goldbard, A. (2006). Ch. 1 & 2 in *New creative community: The art of cultural development*. Oakland, CA: New Village Press.

Session 2 DATE TBA prior to trip

2.5

Discussion

- Google hangout session with Refki Gollopeni, teaching artist at Fellbach-Haus, to discuss project ideas
- Discuss readings
- Continue working on arts project ideas informed by Fellbach-Haus

Homework:

- Refine project ideas; share on Moodle/blog
- Watch: Kosovo: Cutting the lifeline. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFVYeMi7dio>
- Read: Thompson, N. (2012). "Living as form" in Ed. Thompson *Living as form: Socially engaged art from 1991-2011*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- View: <http://www.balkansunflowers.org/> and <http://www.creativetime.org/programs/archive/2011/livingasform/index.htm>

Session 3

Sunday mid-day: 3 hour workshop

- Introduction to the community (tour of municipality, community center, meeting with Fellbach-Haus staff)

Homework

- upload in-process photos, videos to blog and comment
- Readings TBA

Session 4

Monday 9:00am - 12:00; 1:00 – 5:00pm Fellbach-Haus teaching workshop

Homework

- upload in-process photos, videos to blog and comment
- formal welcome dinner evening
- Reading TBA

Session 5

Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00pm; 1:00pm – 3:00pm Fellbach-Haus teaching workshop

3:00pm – 4:00pm Tour Suhareka Education Museum

Homework

- upload in-process photos, videos to blog and comment
- Reading TBA

Session 6

Wednesday 9:00am – 1:00pm Fellbach-Haus teaching workshop

2:00pm – 7:00pm Travel to Prizren for cultural sites/museums and dinner

Homework

- upload in-process/trip photos, videos to blog and comment

Session 7

Thursday 9:00am - 12:00; 1:00 – 5:00pm Fellbach-Haus teaching workshop; facilitate student curating exhibition

Homework

- upload in-process photos, videos to blog and comment

Session 8

Friday 9:00am - 12:00; 1:00 – 5:00pm

- Finalize projects with students
- Final exhibition

Homework

- upload final photos, videos to blog and comment

Session 9

Saturday

- Pristina tour
- Closing Dinner

Sunday fly home

Session 10:

Return 1 session 1.5 hours

DATE TBA

- Reflection
- Final due visual/text narrative