Note: The syllabus will change, as the instructor of the course changes periodically.

PAX89: Internship and Analysis in Peace, Conflict and Coexistence Studies
Fall, 2014

PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS

Instructor
Cynthia Cohen, Ph.D.
Director, Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life
Office: ASAC (Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex) 3rd Floor, Room 321
Phone: 781-736-2133
Email: cecohen@brandeis.edu

Office hours by appointment. Send an email proposing several times.

Writing Assistant
Barbara Strauss
bstrauss@brandeis.edu
781-736-8577

Class
Thursdays, 2 – 3:50 (Note exceptions on LATTE)
ASAC Room 212

Introduction

PAX 89a is the third leg of the 2014 Sorensen Fellowship “journey.” It provides an opportunity for you to integrate learning from the course you took in the spring of 2013, focused reading you completed over the summer, with your personal inquiry questions and the experiences of your summer internship. It also offers the unique opportunity to work in a supportive group of peers, all facing similar challenges related to constructing meaning and coherence out of a complex set of experiences.

In the fall of 2014, we will focus on creating a team and crafting a writing process that supports each student to produce a work of creative non-fiction that expresses powerful stories and communicates the important ideas that have emerged from your experience. We will nourish ourselves with examples of excellent work in this genre, and explore a variety of tools to shape compelling, significant writing. We will also grapple with the ethical dilemmas that inevitably arise in encounters such as those you have had throughout the summer.

Excellent writing usually involves envisioning, writing, re-envisioning, re-writing, soliciting feedback, and more and more re-envisioning and re-writing. Students in the class should expect to listen, tell, think, write, read and revise many times.
The class culminates in the publication of a book of well-crafted works of creative non-fiction, and a joint creative presentation at the end of the semester. Successful completion of the course is a requirement for the Sorensen Fellowship.

Course Goals
The course will nourish a supportive and challenging intellectual community in which the returning Sorensen Fellows will:

• reflect on, discuss, and write compellingly about the geographic, cultural, intellectual, emotional and spiritual journeys that comprised their summer 2014 internships
• grapple with issues of responsibility, ethics, global disparities and social justice, as these played out in internship sites and experiences
• learn about and practice the rudiments of creative non-fiction writing
• develop capacities to offer and receive feedback in ways that lead to improved writing
• create a set of writings and resources that will be useful to future Sorensen Fellows and other members of the Brandeis community
• collectively, in creative ways, share their learning with the Brandeis community at the end of the 2014 fall semester

Course Requirements
• Attendance at all class meetings and the final presentation is mandatory. (In the unlikely event that university commitments require you to be off campus when the class meets, we can consider the possibility of participating via skype or phone for no more than one session.) 10% of grade.
• Completing weekly assignments in a thorough and thoughtful manner, including constructive, thoughtful feedback to classmates. 15% of grade.
• Writing, submitted by the following deadlines: 50% of grade.
  o By Sunday, September 14\textsuperscript{th}, midnight: Submit Assignment #1 “Mad Draft” of your work of creative writing
  o By Sunday, October 5\textsuperscript{th}, midnight: Submit Assignment #2 “Revised Draft” of your work of creative writing
  o By Sunday, November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, midnight: Submit Assignment #3 “Complete (near-final) draft” of your work of creative writing
  o By Monday, November 10\textsuperscript{th}, midnight: Submit Assignment #4 “Final Draft” for copy-editing.
• Planning and sharing work in final event: 25% of grade.
  o Tuesday, December 9\textsuperscript{th}, 12 – 1:30: Presentation

Course Readings and other Resources
• Archive of work complete and items gathered by each student
• Goldberg, Natalie. \textit{Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within}. Boston, Mass: Shambhala Publications. 20005
• Collection of previous essays by Sorensen Fellows.
• Other readings and assignments as indicated on latte site.

**Course Policies**

Attendance is required at all class sessions. Plan to arrive a bit early so that you are prepared to begin at 2.

Because everyone’s learning in the class is strengthened by the contributions of other members, please prepare thoroughly and ask to be excused only in cases of serious health or other emergencies. If you are unable to attend class, inform the instructor before the beginning of class if at all possible.

Each student will be allowed one opportunity to participate in class via skype if there is an instance when travel for school-related activities requires you to be away from campus.

Attendance at class sessions implies being present to conversations and activities in the room. Laptops or tablets can be used in class solely for the purpose of taking notes. Please refrain from checking email or texting or looking up material on the internet during class sessions, unless the instructor specifies otherwise.

You are welcome (in fact, required!) to confer with each other on papers, projects and class presentations. Writing, however, should be your own. Please be sure to credit the source of any ideas quoted, borrowed from or inspired by others.

**Note:** If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you, please see the instructor before the third session of class.