For the Love of Learning: Individuals and Societies in a World Loose With Uncertainty

A professional development, graduate level course for Vermont PreK-12 educators (teachers, para-professionals, coaches, administrators and all staff) offered by Associate Professor Jonathan Miller-Lane, Ph.D. Education Studies Program, Middlebury College. [jmillerl@middlebury.edu]

Course Description
The phrase, “for the love of learning” in the course title is intended to emphasize the fact that this course is not a workshop designed to “produce” “outcomes” that can be measured. There is no “tool set” which one should expect to acquire at the conclusion of our time together. Rather, the goal is for us to create, together, an intellectual space in which we are free to be enchanted, challenged, disrupted and destabilized by compelling questions that we face as educators and as human beings in the United States. One question we will address is, “What would be the experience of ‘liberty and justice for all’ as a normal, daily routine of education in the USA?”

Tuition: $2,000. Enrollment is limited to 16.

Reading List
The following texts will form the focus of discussion for our first three sessions in September and October. Subsequent readings will be assigned by guest professors.

2. Akomolafo, Bayo. Four essays published by the Emergence Network:

Assignments
1. There will be two, short essays required in September and October, respectively.
2. There will a written monthly reflection/response to the assigned readings or films.
3. There will be a short (3-4 page) essay required in May.
4. Final Project: Whatever final/summative expression of our learning and understanding that we choose to do will be developed as a group over the course of the semester. Let’s see what emerges.

Course structure:
As the course title suggests, given our current global, boundary-ignoring virus, all human plans for the next academic year are aspirational. Flexibility and adaptability will be required. Beginning in October, for each session, we will have different guest professors from Middlebury College who will join us to share and contribute their thoughts to the conversation. Tentatively, our meeting plan is:
Meeting Times: 40 Contact Hours
[Fall Semester: Online and in-person. Spring Semester: In person. The exact dates of class meetings are to be determined and will be announced by August 1.

September (4 contact hours)
- Two-hour Zoom class meeting: Intro and Discussion
- Two-hour Zoom class meeting: Discussion

October (6 contact hours)
- Two-hour Zoom class meeting: Discussion
- One, four-hour, simultaneous class comprised of small group, regional Zoom meetings.
  - Depending on CDC guidelines and geographic feasibility, groups of 3-4 participants are gathered at different locations around the state.
  - There are guest professors for the first 90 minutes.
  - Then, discussions take place, at the same time, first in the small groups, separately, at each location and then, together, back as a large group on ZOOM. Everyone eats together at the same time in the different locations, then, we finish as a large group.

November (4 contact hours)
- One, four-hour, simultaneous class comprised of small group, regional meetings.
  - See description above.

December (2 contact hours)
- Two-hour Zoom class meeting.

January (4 contact hours). Class meeting location moves to in-person meetings. Location may shift each month to make travel easier for everyone.
- One, four-hour, class meeting.
  - Two guest professors for 90 minutes.
  - Then, discussions take place, over a meal with the guests. We finish as a large group.

February (6 contact hours)
- Two-hour Zoom class meeting
- One, four-hour, class meeting.
  - Two guest professors for 90 minutes.
  - Then, discussions take place, over a meal with the guests. We finish as a large group.

March (4 contact hours)
- One, four-hour, class meeting.
  - See above.

April (4 contact hours)
- One, four-hour, class meeting.
  - See above.

May (6 contact hours)
- One, four-hour, class meeting.
  - See above.
- Final expression of learning, tbd.

This course is open to all Vermont, PreK-12, educators (teachers, coaches, para-professionals, administrators and all staff). All grades and content areas are welcome. Interested?! If you have questions about the course or want to express an interest in enrolling, please contact Jonathan Miller-Lane by email: jmillerl@middlebury.edu