

McMASTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

HTH SCI 2AE3 ARTISTIC EXPLORATIONS OF COMMUNITY ISSUES COURSE
OUTLINE 2017-2018 – WINTER 2018

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Hartley Jafine, hartley.jafine@learnlink.mcmaster.ca

COURSE TIME & LOCATION: Mondays – 11:30-12:20 MDCL 3016

OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS: You can usually find me in MDCL 2231 on Mondays before class, Wednesdays between 1:30 – 2:30 and after 2:30 on Thursdays.

You are free to visit anytime during the term to discuss your progress or anything course (or non-course) related. If you would like to arrange a specific time to meet on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know and we can schedule a specific time.

One of the main functions of our art is to make people sensitive to the “spectacles” of daily life in which the actors are their own spectators, performances in which the stage and the stalls coincide. We are all artists. By doing theatre, we learn to see what is obvious but what we usually can’t see because we are only used to looking at it. What is familiar to us becomes unseen: doing theatre throws light on the stage of daily life.

Augusto Boal, March 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of the course is to introduce and investigate the field of Arts-Based Research (ABR) and use ABR practices to incite reflection and dialogue within our communities (BHSc and Arts & Science). Throughout the term we will academically and experientially investigate social issues and topics important to our programs through a variety of arts based research methods. Furthermore, we will explore the history, ethics, and approaches of arts based research through readings, embodied/practical exercises, and devised creative work.

The second half of the class will focus on an artistic presentation/”performance” to share with the BHSc and Arts & Science communities to demonstrate our learning and encourage further discussion, dialogue, and reflection.

* The course does not require any previous background in the arts; all that is required is an interest in the arts and a desire to use the arts as a tool to explore and engage our communities.

COURSE READINGS

Method Meets Art: Arts-Based Research Practice – Patricia Leavy

Custom Courseware – Various Contributors

Assigned reading material (which will be either provided or accessible via Mills Library)

EVALUATION

CLASS ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION & MINI-ASSIGNMENTS (15%)

Due to the nature of the course, participation is essential to the pedagogical process. Students are expected to attend class and have readings and assigned work completed. Artistic assignments, reflections, creative work, and discussion prompts may be assigned throughout the semester based on readings and course topics.

MINI-ARTISTIC EXPLORATIONS OF COMMUNITY ISSUES (30%)

Students will be responsible for facilitating an interactive exploration/session on a specific arts-based research methodology. The mini-artistic explorations should identify and investigate a community issue to (potentially) investigate for our Creative Project Unit and introduce us to a specific arts-based research methodology.

The responsibility of the group is to **facilitate discussion and engage** the class through the artistic medium and/or a demonstration of the artistic medium to explore the potential and limitations of the methodology.

The session should pose critical questions and stimulate discussion/experiences based on the course readings, external research, and the ABR methodology.

*You will also submit a group evaluation for your peers.

ARTS-BASED RESEARCH MIDTERM REFLECTION (10%)

Prior to the start of the Creative Project Unit (ie Final Showcase), students will submit a one-page reflection to reflect, discuss, and share their current understanding of Arts-Based Research. Date TBD.

CREATIVE PROJECT UNIT (15%)

The second half of the course will be practical and focused on creating, researching, and devising an artistic piece based on a specific community issue(s) we select. The creative work will synthesize ideas generated from the first half of the course and make use of the exercises and techniques explored in class. Like with participation in the first half of the class, students will be evaluated based on their contributions and commitment to the process (and group evaluations if we separate into small groups)

CREATIVE PROJECT UNIT FINAL PAPER (30%)

At the end of the course students will write a final paper that analyzes the experience of creating and sharing the Creative Project. The investigation will seek to understand how our Creative Project represents a form of Arts-Based Research as well as the potential and limitations of our piece. The paper should weave together course readings, research, and reflection on the devising/sharing process.

More details will follow later on in the semester.

*Please note that due to unexpected circumstances and/or feedback from the class, components and descriptions listed above may change. All changes will be communicated with students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is the fundamental code by which we all abide. In the event you are in doubt, and are about to consider activities that may deviate from this code, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at:

- www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

COURSE MODIFICATIONS

The instructor, program and the university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If modifications become necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given. Students will be provided with an explanation and an opportunity to comment. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and the course website/LearnLink weekly during term. Any significant changes will be made in consultation with the BHSc Assistant Dean.