

Women's Prison Garden Capstone

Fall 2012

UNST 421- 576

Mon/Wed 10:15 – 12:05

Instructors

-Debbie Rutt

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(Office hours: by appointment)

Course Description

Students in this Capstone will review, research and reflect on the impact of the incarceration on women, their families and communities. Students will study the circumstances of women in prisons and the diversity of individuals in correctional facilities through readings, video, dialogue and reflective writing.

Working in teams, students will research a topic related to organic gardening/sustainability, create a team presentation on that topic for the classroom and a complete a related team project to support the organic horticulture program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Oregon's state prison for women in Wilsonville.)

Students will have the option of working in the prison garden to meet the community service requirement of this course. The facility is 20 minutes from Portland and we will arrange carpooling whenever possible. Students choosing not to work in the prison garden will be asked to complete six hours of alternative community service related to the class topic.

Course Objectives (University Studies Goal Areas)

1. Develop an understanding of the impact of the incarceration of women on individuals, families and communities. (*Inquiry and Critical Thinking; Social and Ethical Responsibility*)
2. Develop an understanding of the diversity of individuals in correctional facilities; bring some humanity to the idea of "prisoner." (*Diversity; Social and Ethical Responsibility*)
3. Engage in higher level and critical thinking dialogue with colleagues around issues regarding women in prisons. (*Inquiry and Critical Thinking; Communication*)
4. Work collaboratively with fellow students, incarcerated women at Coffee Creek and Department of Corrections employees. (*Diversity/ Communication*)
5. Contribute to the development of a prison garden program that addresses the unique needs of women inmates. (*Inquiry and Critical Thinking*)
6. Engage in work that is meaningful and become an agent of change by making contributions that impact individuals and communities. (*Social and Ethical Responsibility*)
7. Create a presentation that describes the final team project, including background research and process. (*Communication*)

Required Course Activities

1. Complete all assigned readings
2. Write weekly reflective papers
3. Participate in class discussion
4. Participate in six hours community service at prison garden (or alternative community partner)
5. Form collaborative work teams to complete a service project supporting the garden
6. Prepare a team presentation around one aspect of a prison garden program

Team Projects – Winter 2012

Vermicomposting & Worm Bins: Research the benefits and methods for composting in worm bins. Applying research findings, create educational material for the Coffee Creek gardening class that will inform and inspire future vermicomposters.

Attracting Wildlife to the Garden: Research the importance of and methods for attracting wildlife to the garden. Applying research findings, create educational material for the Coffee Creek gardening class that explains why and how to attract wildlife to the garden.

Gardening with Physical Limitations: Research how gardens can be designed to maximize enjoyment and interaction for gardeners with physical limitations. Applying research findings, create educational material for the Coffee Creek gardening class that describes considerations and garden designs.

Herbs in the Kitchen Garden: Research culinary herbs for the Pacific Northwest garden. Applying research findings, create educational material for the Coffee Creek gardening class that describes how to grow culinary herbs and how to use them in the kitchen.

****Please note that we have a \$150 materials budget for the entire class. If your team would like to use a portion of those funds to purchase materials for your project **you must make arrangements for the instructor to make purchases no later than three weeks before the end of the term. PSU will not be reimburse student purchases.******

Community Partner

Oregon Department of Corrections
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
Wilsonville, Oregon

www.oregon.gov/DOC/OPS/PRISON/cccf_home_page.shtml

Required Texts

1. Jiler, James. Doing Time in the Garden. New Village Press, 2007.
2. Rathbone, Christina. A World Apart: Women, Prison and Life Behind Bars. Random House, 2005.
3. Lamb, Wally. Couldn't Keep it to Myself: Testimonies from our Imprisoned Sisters. Harper Collins, 2003. ****Note:** You will be assigned a section of this book to read.

Students with Disabilities

Please talk with course instructors if you have a disability that may require modification to the course. We will work with you and the Disability Resource Center to make any necessary arrangements.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism or cheating is taken very seriously and may result in a failing grade for the course. For more information, refer to the PSU Student Code of Conduct at <http://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct>.

Grading

Attendance, punctuality and participation in class activities = 105 points (40%)

(5 points x 20 class meetings) + 5 point quiz on syllabus

Reflective Writing Papers = 80 points (30%)

(10 points x 8 reflective writing papers – 1½ to 2 pages in length single spaced)

- Responds thoroughly to assigned questions/topic and is a minimum of 1½ to 2 pages in length
- Demonstrates personal reflection and critical analysis of topic
- Spelling, grammar and organization

Papers are due as a hard copy at the beginning of the class period. If you are going to miss a class you may email the paper to instructor by the designated time, and bring a hard copy to the next class period for full credit. Late papers will not be accepted.

Team Final Project and Presentation = 80 points (30%)

-Peer evaluation = 20 points

Based on evaluations from peers assessing team member's contribution to project and presentation, and adherence to established team norms

-Final project = 30 points

Based on depth of content, creativity, organization and team process in creating final project

-Presentation = 30 points

Based on the depth of content, clarity, organization, creativity and team process in creating class presentation

There will be no final exam for this course.

Alternative Community Service Suggestions

If you plan to do alternative community service, you must clear your service plan with instructor by the end of the third week of class and submit proof of your service no later than the final class meeting day. Suggested alternative service options:

-Books to Prisoner: www.pdxbookstoprisoners.org

-Zenger Farm: www.zengerfarm.org

Sign up for these or any sustainability/prison related projects through

Hands On Greater Portland: www.handsonportland.org

Weekly Schedule

(subject to change)

Week 1

Monday, September 24

Class Activities:

- Introductions and course objectives
- Coffee Creek Garden Program
- Develop class working agreements

Due:

- LEDS (security clearance) form for the Department of Corrections (to be completed in class.)

Assignments:

- Prison visit dates preferences and team project preferences (due next class meeting)
- Read the following article(s) for your assigned group before the next class meeting:

Group 1. "Hard Hit: The Growth in the Imprisonment of Women, 1977 - 2004." (pp.7-30)

Women's Prison Association (wpaonline.org)

www.wpaonline.org/pdf/HARD%20HIT%20Full%20Report.pdf

Group 2. "One in 31: The Long Reach of American Corrections." (pp.1-31) The Pew Center on the States (2009)

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/PSPP_1in31_report_FINAL_WEB_3-26-09.pdf

Group 3. "Comparative International Rates of Incarceration: An Examination of Causes and Trends" The Sentencing Project (2003)

www.sentencingproject.org/doc/.../inc_comparative_intl.pdf

and

"US Rates of Incarceration: A Global Perspective." The National Council on Crime and Delinquency(2006)

www.nccd-crc.org/nccd/pubs/2006nov_factsheet_incarceration.pdf

Wednesday, September 26

Class Activities:

- Quiz on first three pages of syllabus
- Discussion of articles

Due:

- Prison visit dates preferences/Project preferences

Assignments:

- Watch video by next class: Bill Moyers Journal (PBS) interview with Bryan Stevenson and Michelle Alexander

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/04022010/watch.html>

- RW #1 (due next Wednesday Oct. 3)

Week 2

Monday, October 1

Class Activities:

- Form teams/ team building activities
- “This American Life” episode “Ruining it for the Rest of Us.”
- Discussion of Bill Moyers video

Wednesday, October 3

Class Activities:

- Read CCCF inmate writings
- Develop team working agreements
- Discuss process for team projects

Due:

- RW #1

Assignments:

- “Doing Time in the Garden” – read chapters 1,2,3,8 & 9 by Wednesday, Oct. 10
- RW #2 (due Wednesday, Oct. 10)

Week 3

Monday, October 8

Class Activities:

- Inside-Out Video
- Discuss Coffee Creek visit protocol

Wednesday, October 10

Class Activities:

- Discuss “Doing Time in the Garden”
- Sustainable Prisons Project video
- Team meeting/brainstorming process

Due:

- RW#2
- Signed team working agreements

Assignment:

- Begin reading “A World Apart” (complete by Oct. 24)
- Note: RW #3 assignment will be handed out after film on Monday and will be due two days later on Wednesday, Oct. 17.

Week 4

Monday, October 15

Class Activities:

-Film: "What I Want my Words to do to You" (80 minutes)

Assignment:

-RW #3 (due next class period, Wednesday, Oct. 17)

Wednesday, October 17

Class Activities:

-Discuss "What I Want my Words to do to You"

-Team meeting

Due:

-RW#3

Assignment:

-RW#4 (due Wednesday, Oct. 24)

Week 5

Monday, October 22

Class Activities:

-team meetings

Wednesday, October 24

Class Activities:

-Discuss "A World Apart"

-team meetings

Due:

-RW#4

Assignment:

-RW#5 (due Wednesday, Oct. 31)

-Read assigned section of "Couldn't Keep it to Myself" (complete by Wednesday, Oct. 31)

Week 6

Monday, October 29

Class Activities:

- Team meetings
- mid-term conferences with instructor

Wednesday, October 31

Class Activities:

- Discuss "Couldn't Keep it to Myself"

Due:

- RW#5
- Team project drafts (submit as a hard copy)

Assignment:

- RW#6 (due Wed 11/7)

Week 7

Monday, November 5

Class Activities:

- Team meetings
- Discuss team project drafts with instructor

Wednesday, November 7

Class Activities:

- Girl Scouts Beyond Bars video

Due:

- RW#6

Assignment:

- RW#7 (due Wed 11/14)

Week 8

Monday, November 12

Class Activities:

- Team meetings

Wednesday, November 14

Class Activities:

- Film: Girl Trouble

Due:

- RW#7

Assignment:

- RW#8 (Wed 11/28)

Week 9

Monday, November 19

Class Activities:

-Team meetings

Wednesday, November 21

Class Activities:

-Team presentations

Week 10

Monday, November 26

Class Activities:

-Team presentations

Wednesday, November 28

Class Activities:

-Celebration and Closure

Due:

-RW #8