

SRSC 525 Place and the Problem of Healing
Elective for the Gender & Women's Studies Certificate
and for the M.A. in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities
Dr. Jane Olmsted
Spring 2018 (online)

Phone: 270.745-5787

Office: DCS House, 1532 State St., stone house next to EST

Office Hours: by appointment; I'm here most of the time between 8-4:00, with meetings scheduled irregularly. I'm accessible!



Course Description

This course draws on memoir, non-fiction, fiction, and cultural criticism to examine the ways in which selves and others are fragmented and how they go about rebuilding themselves—reconstructing new identities and ways of living in the world. What are the inter-relationships among healing and individual human or animal suffering, community, and place? What part does the body play? “Spirit”? Of

particular interest are the processes of healing, as well as the negotiations between violence and peace, silence and voice, language and expression, and ritual and sharing. Listening is a practice that we will practice through the semester, to each other, to ourselves, and to the interviewees of Krista Tippett (and others). There is no research expectation. Instead, you will respond to readings and other course materials in class discussions and develop a creative project that includes personal narrative with at least one other art form (photography, song, poetry, visual arts, drama, and so on).

Course Materials (required)

- High speed internet; webcam, microphone (these are essential)
- Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise* 978-1101980316
- Bessel Van Der Kolk, *The Body Keeps the Score* 978-0143127741
- Craig Childs, *The Animal Dialogues*, 978-0316066471
- Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge* 978-0679740247
- Elisabeth Tova, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* 978-1565126060
- Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow*, 978-0452267114
- Jane Goodall, *Reason for Hope* 978-0446676137
- Additional articles and/or films in support of the above books

Optional (excerpts)

- Matthew Scully, *Dominion*

Grading

- 200 Discussion Board: 9 weeks on course materials, drop 1 (8 graded)
- 95 Live Discussions (25 points x 3 weeks + 20 points for discussion leader, once)
- 75 Self Portrait
- 160 Listening and Reflecting Journal
- 200 Critical reflections (2 out of 3 options)
- 270 Semester-long healing project (log, project, presentation)

University Policies

Plagiarism

Do not, do not copy from the internet (or anywhere else) and then paste it into a post or paper as if it were your own writing. All students are expected to follow the WKU Student Code of Conduct, completing homework and papers independently unless instructions specify otherwise. I electronically check all assignments for plagiarism. All sources of information are to be appropriately cited to avoid any gray areas. Anyone turning in plagiarized work or cheating on exams will receive an F for the assignment(s), perhaps for the course, and will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. For further information, see the Student Handbook.

ADA Notice

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Discrimination and Harassment

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you

confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Campus Resources

If you are experiencing any type of physical, emotional or psychological distress, there are university resources to help you.

- Counseling Center: 270-745-3159
(<http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/StuAffairs/COUNS/index.htm>)
- The Office of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/University ADA Services:
270-745-5121 (<http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/Legal/EOO/>)
- WKU Writing Center (<http://www.wku.edu/pcal/writing-center>)

Schedule of Assignments

Available in Blackboard class site.