

**Information Sheet for BIS 490:  
Popular Education and Social Change  
Highlander Education and Research Center  
Tennessee Senior Seminar**

**THE COURSE:**

The Popular Education and Social Change Senior Seminar (BIS 490), which starts with a visit to Highlander Education and Research Center in New Market Tennessee, will be taught as a senior seminar for the academic year 2008-2009. In this senior seminar, students will have the opportunity to study popular education and social change by researching successful social movements that originated (and continue to originate) from Highlander, a popular education center near Knoxville, Tennessee.

**BACKGROUND PREPARATION:**

Students interested in this senior seminar should enroll in BIS 435 Interactive Learning: Theory and Practice, as this course prepares students for examining education as a tool for social transformation. (See below for alternative means of preparation)

**FORMAT:**

We will read and discuss the history of Highlander (available from Highlander's on-line bookstore). Those who have not taken BIS 435 will also need to read We Make the Road by Walking by Miles Horton and Paulo Freire. Students can sign up for discussion of these books on **one** of two dates: Monday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> OR Tuesday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30. Questions for these sessions will be available on Blackboard in early August. We will fly to Knoxville on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and drive to Highlander in New Market, Tennessee for an on-site workshop (from Sept 11-15). The trip will also include a visit to the Green-McAdoo Museum and historical sites or social action organizations in the area. We are in the process of joining with two other colleges, who will also bring students. Students will take part in workshop activities and get a head start on their senior seminar project, which they will carry out during fall semester. When students return, they will work on projects relating to popular education and social change, meeting in class once a week during Fall quarter to share their research with the class. Students may decide to carry out a community action project, do archival research on a particular movement, or read more in the popular education literature.

**SCHEDULE:**

- March 21: applications due
- April 15: final selection of participants
- May 2: first \$225 deposit due
- June 2: second \$225 deposit due
- August 1: syllabus and reading assignments available
- September 8 OR 9: discussion on campus (6:30-8:30pm)
- September 11-15: at the Highlander Education and Research Center.  
We will all meet at the Knoxville airport Thursday (9/11) at 5:00 pm and drive in a rental van to the conference center. It

is about 40 minutes to Highlander from Knoxville. We will leave Highlander early Monday so that participants can make 10am flights out of Knoxville. (Students can also make their own rental car arrangements.)

- 9/22-12/1: Tuesday class sessions from 11:00am-1:05pm.
- December 5: Project related to popular education and social change due.

#### COST:

- room and board at conference center, program fees (\$450)
- round trip airfare to Knoxville, Tennessee. (variable)
- texts and materials (approximately \$100)
- tuition (variable--depends on number of credits for fall quarter)
- incidentals in Tennessee (variable)

#### STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:

- ❖ *"The Highlander trip helped me understand--in real world terms--concepts such as grassroots organizing and promoting equality among all people. In a very practical sense it demonstrated, through various means, how to bring forth the collective knowledge of a group of people for the benefit of all. It was a very rewarding as well as useful experience!"*  
- Michiel Crosman
- ❖ *"The trip to Highlander was such an amazing and fun adventure. The interactive workshops, inspiring stories, and day trips were a once in a lifetime experience. Highlander challenged and inspired my thinking and outlook on life."*  
- Hayley Kirst
- ❖ *"My experiences at Highlander Research and Education Center exposed me to purposefully orchestrated social justice mobilization. I am now deeply committed to using what I have learned for transformative education, in my classroom. Highlander has left me with the awareness and inspiration of how human beings unite for social change."*  
- Amber Braxton

#### COURSE THEME:

Popular education, sometimes called nonformal or progressive education, has been part of 20<sup>th</sup> century social change movements, including labor organization, civil rights, and environmental justice. This course will examine the underlying philosophic and social assumptions of popular education, especially in the context of working with literacy and adult learning. Students will engage questions such as the following: How do organizers or educators work reciprocally with adult learners? How do communities decide to take up social mobilization projects and how can educators partner with them? How does culture play a role in social transformation movements? How do community organizations partner successfully with public schools?

#### THE HIGHLANDER EXPERIENCE:

Students will be engaged in intensive workshop sessions at Highlander, learning the lessons from Highlander's educational efforts in helping labor organizers and civil rights activists (such as Rosa Parks) reflect on social action projects that led to social and economic change. We will also experience how theater and singing raise consciousness and create solidarity among those who are working for social justice. Joining us will be students from two local colleges who will be working on similar projects; they will enrich our experience culturally and educationally. We will also travel to Clinton, TN, to the Green McAdoo Museum, an interactive museum that tells the story of the bombing of the first high school to segregate after Brown vs the Board of Education. We may have the opportunity to visit another social action organization in Clinton. The three day weekend is meant to give us shared experiences which we then reflect on. There will be very little spare time for sightseeing; it is strongly recommended that students who wish to do so extend their stay.

#### THE CONFERENCE CENTER:

The following is from Highlander's website: <http://www.highlandercenter.org/>  
"The Highlander Center is a residential popular education and research organization based on a 106-acre farm in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, twenty-five miles east of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Since 1932, Highlander has gathered workers, grassroots leaders, community organizers, educators, and researchers to address the most pressing social, environmental and economic problems facing the people of the South. Highlander sponsors **educational programs** and **research** into community problems, as well as a residential **Workshop Center** for social change organizations and workers active in the South and internationally. Generations of activists have come to Highlander to learn, teach, and prepare to participate in struggles for justice.

Highlander's work is rooted in the belief that in a truly just and democratic society the policies shaping political and economic life must be informed by equal concern for and participation by all people. Guided by this belief, we help communities that suffer from unfair government policies and big-business practices as they voice their concerns and join with others to form movements for change.

Over the course of its history, Highlander has played important roles in many major political movements, including the Southern labor movements of the 1930s, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1940s-60s, and the Appalachian people's movements of the 1970s-80s.

Because of our past accomplishments, many think of Highlander as a historical place where great movements were nurtured. But Highlander is more than its history - Highlander is an ongoing story of the people who continue to gather here today to tell their stories and join with others to fight for justice, peace, and fairness, not just for themselves, but for everyone.

Through this Web site, we would like to share information about Highlander's educational programs and the resources we provide to progressive social change activists, journalists, and academics. We'd also like to tell you the story of Highlander - about its history and the important struggles it continues to support today.”

**THE INSTRUCTOR:**

Professor Diane Gillespie teaches courses in Society, Ethics, and Human Behavior and Community Psychology. She has been teaching BIS 435: Interactive Learning for the last seven years and took students to Highlander in 2006.

**TO APPLY:**

To apply for the program, obtain an Application Form from the IAS office, fill it out, and return to Lindsey McCarthy (UW1-390) or Diane Gillespie (UW1-332) Add codes will be provided at the appropriate time.

Senior Seminar  
Highlander Education and Research Center, Tennessee

Paperwork – Check-off List

*To be filled out by student applying.*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Current Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening)

Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening)

Work # \_\_\_\_\_ (Day)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Drivers License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*All information must be filled out above to begin review of application*

*For IAS office use only:*

Liability /Medical Release Form

\$225.00 (1<sup>st</sup> deposit)

\$225.00 (2<sup>nd</sup> deposit)

Copy of Drivers License

Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_

## Highlander, Tennessee Senior Seminar Application Form – Due March 21, 2008

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_
3. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
4. Email \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your declared option within IAS? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Expected Graduation Date (Month/Year)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. UWB Courses relevant to the Tennessee Senior Seminar:

Course #	Title

8. UWB courses *preferred* to be taken *before or concurrently* with this Senior Seminar

BIS 435: Offered in Spring Quarter 2008	In this course, students will read <i>We Make This Road by Walking</i> by Miles Horton and Paulo Freire, a book that will give them background on Highlander and its historic role in the civil rights movement.
2 Credit Independent Study: pre fall quarter (Sept. 1-11)	An independent study in which the students read <i>We Make This Road by Walking</i> by Miles Horton and Paulo Freire, a book that will give them background on Highlander and its historic role in the civil rights movement before traveling to the Highlander.

9. Are there any conflicts that would prevent you from attending any of the sessions, on campus or in Tennessee? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain:

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10. Do you have any dietary restrictions that cannot be reasonably accommodated in public facility? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain:

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11. The program is a weekend of intense work in groups that includes timely movement between museums around Tennessee. Some days the schedule runs from early morning until late into the evening. Are there any medical conditions that would prevent you from fully participating in all the activities of the program?

If yes, please explain.\*

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12. Post-graduation goals (if known):

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13. What interests you in taking this course?

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\*A separate medical release form will need to be completed prior to the trip.

Return this application to Lindsey McCarthy, UW1-390, or to Professor Diane Gillespie under the door of his office, UW1-332.