

## AE 281

### Expressive Arts and Conflict Transformation

Instructor: Aylin Vartanyan  
Office: Güney YADYOK No:214  
E-mail: vartanya@boun.edu.tr  
Office Hours: by appointment

#### Course Objective

This course will focus on the Expressive Arts approach in the area of conflict transformation in communities and non-formal educational settings. Expressive Arts is based on an intermodal arts (drama, visual arts, music, storytelling etc.) approach emphasizing the creation of a containing art space to create the desired transformation within the community. Along with an analysis of the theoretical background of the arts-based conflict transformation through various texts, a line of interactive workshops will be conducted in class. Throughout the semester, students are expected to work in a community facilitating arts-based interactive workshops and to reflect on their experience regularly.

#### Required Reading

The reading material for this class will be made available for you in class or online each week.

#### Class Participation and Attendance

It is crucial that you come to class **on time (5 minute delay maximum)**, with required texts and well prepared to offer thoughtful responses to the assigned reading or to the experience based learning. To be effective as a participant in this course, you will need to **complete reading tasks by their assigned dates or prepare workshop material as required.**

Because the format of the course is based on discussion (on Tuesdays) and participatory/interactive learning (on Fridays), it is essential that you attend class faithfully. If you are absent from class because of a personal, family or medical emergency, please email me (vartanya@boun.edu.tr) as soon as possible.

#### Tasks:

- 1- Weekly Reflective Protocols (10%):** Tuesday classes will be based on discussing that week's theme through texts or video screenings. Friday classes will involve group participation in interactive workshops. For each day of the week one or two students will be responsible to summon the class discussion or experience in a protocol format and e-mail it to me (or upload it on a Google Drive file created for the class).
- 2- Planning and Conducting a Community Involvement Project (CIP) (20%) and end of the year interactive presentation (10%):**  
Starting on the weekend of week 4 (Oct 14-15), the students will be working

in a community that they have chosen. They can do the planning and presentation of their project in groups. Once they have started the community work, students are expected to keep a creative journal where they would keep their weekly reflections or aesthetic responses through arts-based or written material. This task will be graded based on each student's journal entries. By the end of the semester the students are expected to carry out an in-class workshop/presentation in the class based on their experiences in their communities.

**3- Mid Semester-Reflection (30%):**

This reflection will be based on one particular session the students have carried out in a community. Students are expected to write down in detail the architecture of the session they have carried out in the community and their reflection on their experience in the community. They are also expected to hand in their creative journal along with their Mid Semester reflection.

**4- Final Paper (30%):**

After having read and discussed some materials on writing from a phenomenological perspective, students are expected to summon their semester-long experience by relating them to the artwork created in the workshops they carried out and the philosophical background of EXA.