



A PROGRAM OF EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

**STRATEGIES FOR TRAUMA AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE  
(STAR) 1  
PAX 540**

*September 10-14, 2018*  
EMU Harrisonburg, VA  
Discipleship Center

**INSTRUCTOR'S INFORMATION:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course presents an integrated theoretical and training approach to the trauma, conflict, and violence caused by nature, human beings, or societal institutions and structures. Research and experience demonstrate that unaddressed trauma often leads to conflict and violence against self or others, as trauma-affected people act out against others or become self-destructive. STAR combines theory with experiential learning to increase awareness of the impacts of trauma on the body, brain, beliefs and behaviors. The course offers tools for addressing trauma and breaking the cycles of violence. The STAR multidisciplinary framework draws on the fields of trauma and resilience studies (including neurobiology), restorative justice, conflict transformation, human security and spirituality for building healthy, resilient individuals and communities. The theoretical and practical focus of the course provides a model to understand and interrupt cycles of violence at the individual, communal and societal levels.

**COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

As a result of participation in this intensive didactic and experiential course, students will be able to:

- Identify types of trauma and understand how trauma affects the body, mind, emotions, and spirit, and community;
- Understand the experiences of people and societies that experience and cause traumagenic violence;
- Understand the relationship to the cycles of violence initiated by unresolved trauma;
- Learn the relationships between trauma, trauma healing, restorative justice, conflict transformation, and human security;
- Examine ways to build individual and group resilience and accompany people and communities on the healing journey through practices and processes presented in the healing path model, known informally as the "snail model."

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

The following are reading materials and texts, required for all participants taking the course for credit:

1. STAR manual (handed out at first class session).
2. Yoder, Carolyn: *The Little Book of Trauma Healing*, Akron PA: Good Books, Inc. 2007 (ISBN 1561485071) (to be read before class) retail \$4.95
3. Levine, Peter: *Waking the Tiger: Healing Trauma*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books, 1997. (If you have already read this book, choose another of Levine's works—*Healing Trauma, Trauma and Memory, In an Unspoken Voice*) (ISBN 155643233X) retail \$17.95
4. Van der Kolk, Bessel: *The Body Keeps the Score*. New York, NY: Viking Penguin, 2014. Chapters 4,5,6. (to be read before class) retail \$11.
5. Zehr, Howard: *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* (ISBN 1561483761) (to be read before class) retail \$4.95
6. Yazzie, Robert (Honorable Chief Justice). (1994). 'Life comes from it': Navajo justice concepts. *New Mexico Law Review*, 24, Spring 1994, 175-190. (to be read before exploration of RJ, posted on Moodle)
7. Brave Heart, Maria Yellow Horse. 2000. "Wakiksuyapi: Carrying the Historical Trauma of the Lakota." Tulane University School of Social Work. (to be read before class, posted on Moodle)

## DIGITAL MEDIA CONTENT

1. **Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris** TED talk on Adverse Childhood Experiences Study  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine\\_burke\\_harris\\_how\\_childhood\\_trauma\\_affects\\_health\\_a\\_cross\\_a\\_lifetime](https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_a_cross_a_lifetime)
2. **Brené Brown** "We need to keep talking about Charlottesville" (facebook live post)  
<https://www.facebook.com/brenebrown/videos/1778878652127236/>
3. **Howard Martin** TEDx Santa Cruz Engaging The Intelligence of the Heart  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KJ3sxcnqcw>
4. **Ta Nehisi Coates**, "The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration." *The Atlantic*, October 2015. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/10/the-black-family-in-the-age-of-mass-incarceration/403246/>
5. **"The Case for Diversion" from Race and Justice in America, AtlanticLIVE.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk97bWAjdgw>
6. **Mallika Sarabhai, Dance to Change the World** TED talk on the power of dance/arts and truth telling, [https://www.ted.com/talks/mallika\\_sarabhai](https://www.ted.com/talks/mallika_sarabhai)
7. **Fania Davis and Angela Davis, yes! magazine article**  
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/life-after-oil/the-radical-work-of-healing-fania-and-angela-davis-on-a-new-kind-of-civil-rights-activism-20160218>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

The STAR I Manual includes an extensive list of bibliographic and other resources. Please consult the Manual for further references or consult a slightly edited version of that section below.

<b>A. Class attendance and participation:</b>	<b>35 points</b>
<b>B. Supplementary reading responses/ class reflection:</b>	<b>10 points</b>
<b>C. Required texts reading critique</b>	<b>35 points</b>
<b>D. Film analysis/response</b>	<b><u>20 points</u></b>
<b>Total points:</b>	<b>100</b>

*These are brief descriptions of required graded assignments for those taking the course for 2 hours of graduate credit. More details for each assignment can be found on the "Guidance Notes" that will be provided in class. This class is also available for professional development/training.*

- A. Attendance (35%) —This graduate course offered for 2 credits requires 5 days of in-class learning. Therefore, class attendance is weighted heavily at 35% of the grade. All participants benefit when all other participants are fully engaged and seeking to upgrade their level of knowledge and skills. Therefore, students are expected to actively participate in all simulations and exercises. This may, on occasion, require overnight preparation.
- B. 2 Supplementary Reading Responses and/or Class Reflection (10%) —Students will be assigned class-related readings and digital content and will participate in experiential learning through the week. Each student taking the course for credit will be asked to write 2 responses either to readings (sections of the STAR manual) or to the day's lived activities. Reflections/responses can be 1 single-spaced page of prose or poetic reflection. DUE within 2 weeks after STAR training – **DUE by September 28.**
- C. Required Texts Reading Critique/Reflection (35%) —Students are expected to read the assigned texts and a chosen selection among the recommended readings and write ***an integrative critique of the readings*** in light of the course and their respective professional interests. The critique should include a brief summary of the main points or point of each text as well as an analysis on how the content might shape how participants create healthy and resilient communities and individuals. The integrative critique should be approximately 8-10 pages long (double spaced). **DUE by November 30**
- D. **Film analysis/response** (20%)— Students are required to watch 1 of the following movies/documentaries and write a 3-5 page (double spaced) discussion of the trauma sources, trauma response manifestations and resilience and breaking free processes. **DUE by October 8.**
- Meeting with a Killer (documentary - US)
  - Fambul Tok: Community Healing in Sierra Leone (documentary – Sierra Leone)
  - War Dance (documentary - Uganda)
  - Favela Rising (documentary - Brazil)

- Paper Tigers (documentary – US)
- Rabbit Proof Fence (drama - Australia)
- Les Incendies (drama - Lebanon)
- Pray the Devil Back to Hell (documentary – Liberia)
- I Am Not Your Negro (documentary – US)
- Kung Fu Panda 2 (animated film)
- Whale Rider (drama – New Zealand)
- If you have another film you want to explore, please clear with the instructor first.

The Short Reflections, Reading Critique and the Film Response will each be **submitted to Elaine Zook Barge by email at [elaine.barge@emu.edu](mailto:elaine.barge@emu.edu)**. Please address any questions to **Elaine Zook Barge, professor of record, at [elaine.barge@emu.edu](mailto:elaine.barge@emu.edu)**. It is anticipated that papers may include charts or diagrams (*which are in excess of the 8-10 written pages*). If these charts and other graphic material are not produced electronically, they should be **scanned** and included with the electronic submission. Participants who do not come to campus regularly should make special arrangements with the professor of record regarding any non-electronic (i.e. hard copy) material to be submitted.

In summary, all for-credit students should submit

- short reflections by **September 28**, two weeks after the STAR training
- film reflection by **October 8**
- final paper (integrative critique) by **November 30**.

#### **DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Schedule is included in the STAR Manual, which is distributed the first day of class.

## **GRADING CRITERIA AND OTHER POLICIES:**

### **Writing Guidelines:**

*Writing* will be a factor in evaluation: EMU has adopted a set of writing guidelines for graduate programs that include six sets of criteria: content, structure, rhetoric & style, information literacy, source integrity, and conventions (see page 3). It is expected that graduates will be able to write at least a “good” level with 60% writing at an “excellent” level. For the course papers, please follow the APA style described in CJP’s *GUIDELINES for GRADUATE PAPERS* (see CJP Student Resources Moodle page or request a copy from the Academic Program Coordinator), unless directed otherwise by the instructor.

### **Academic Integrity Policy (AIP):**

EMU faculty and staff care about the integrity of their own work and the work of their students. They create assignments that promote interpretative thinking and work intentionally with students during the learning process. Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility are characteristics of a community that is active in loving mercy and doing justice. EMU defines plagiarism as occurring when a person presents as one’s own someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source (Adapted from the Council of Writing Program Administrators). This course will apply EMU’s AIP to any events of academic dishonesty. For more information see [https://emu.edu/cms-links/writing-program/docs/Student\\_Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy.BB.9-16.pdf](https://emu.edu/cms-links/writing-program/docs/Student_Academic_Integrity_Policy.BB.9-16.pdf). If you have doubts about what is appropriate, one useful website is <https://www.indiana.edu/~academy/firstPrinciples/index.html>.

### **Turnitin:**

Students are accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Thus, you should be familiar with EMU’s Academic Integrity Policy (see above) in order to meet the academic expectations concerning appropriate documentation of sources. In addition, EMU is using Turnitin, a learning tool and plagiarism prevention system. For CJP classes, you may be asked to submit your papers to Turnitin from Moodle. For more information about Turnitin, with instructions for using it see: [https://guides.turnitin.com/01\\_Manuals\\_and\\_Guides/Student\\_Guides](https://guides.turnitin.com/01_Manuals_and_Guides/Student_Guides).

### **Moodle:**

Moodle (<https://moodle.emu.edu/>) is the online learning platform that EMU has chosen to provide to faculty, administrators and students. Students will have access to course information within Moodle for any class they are registered for in a given term. The amount of time a student has access to information before and after the class is somewhat dependent on the access given to students by the individual faculty member. However, please note that courses are not in Moodle permanently – after two years the class will no longer be accessible. Please be sure to download resources from Moodle that you wish to have ongoing access to.

### **Technology Requirements and Communication (if joining a class by zoom):**

Communication will largely be accomplished via the Moodle platform utilized by EMU and your EMU email. Check both frequently during the semester. In addition, during class synchronous sessions, it will be expected that you will use a noise-reducing headset to minimize background noise and disruption. Remember to keep your headsets UNMUTED during the sessions and avoid moving, brushing, touching or fumbling with them as it creates unwanted noise in the class space.

### **Institutional Review Board:**

All research conducted by or on EMU faculty, staff or students must be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board to assure participant safety: <http://www.emu.edu/irb/>.

### **Grading Scale & Feedback:**

In most courses *grades* will be based on an accumulation of numerical points that will be converted to a letter grade at the end of the course (several CJP courses are graded pass/fail). Assignments will receive a score expressed as a fraction, with the points received over the total points possible (e.g. 18/20). The following is the basic scale used for evaluation. *Points may be subtracted for missed deadlines.*

95-100 = A outstanding	90-94 = A- excellent	85-89 = B+ very good
80-84 = B good	76-79 = B- satisfactory	73-75 = C+ passing
70-72 = C unsatisfactory	Below 70 = F failing	

Graduate students are expected to earn A's & B's. A GPA of 3.0 for MA students and 2.75 for GC students is the minimum requirement for graduation.

*Regarding feedback on papers/projects:* Students can expect to receive papers/assignments back in a class with faculty feedback before the next paper/assignment is due. This commitment from faculty assumes that the student has turned the paper in on the agreed upon due date.

### **Graduate & Professional Studies Writing Center:**

Please utilize the writing center! They offer free individual tutoring from a graduate student tutor. Please see <http://www.emu.edu/writing-program/> for more information, including how to schedule appointments.

### **Library**

The Hartzler Library offers research support (via e-mail, chat, phone, or SSC campus) and the library home page offers subject guides to help start your research. These resources are accessible from the library home page: <https://emu.edu/library/>.

### **Office of Academic Access:**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your work in this course, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Academic Access in the Academic Success Center on the third floor of the Hartzler Library. They will work with you to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. All information and documentation is treated confidentially. See <http://www.emu.edu/academics/access/> for more information.

### **Class Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If unusual or emergency circumstances prevent class attendance, the student should notify the professor in advance if possible. Multiple absences from class will result in lower grades. The student is responsible for the material presented in classes missed (from EMU Graduate Catalog). Students should be aware of the importance of regular class attendance, particularly in the case of CJP classes that only meet once a week or over several weekends. Being absent for more than one class leads to a student missing a large portion of the class content. In addition to consistent class attendance, students should make every effort to arrive to class on time out of respect for the learning process, fellow students and faculty.

### **Course Extensions and Outstanding Grades:**

For fall and spring semesters, all coursework is due by the end of the semester. If a student will not be able to complete a course on time, the student must submit a request one week before the end of the

semester for an extension (up to 6 months), by emailing the instructor, academic advisor and the Academic Program Coordinator. If the request is granted the student will receive an "I (incomplete) for the course which will later be replaced by a final grade when the work has been turned in on the agreed upon date. If the request for an extension is denied, the student will receive a grade for the work that has been completed up until the time the course was expected to have been completed. If no work has been submitted, the final grade will be an F (or W under unusual circumstances and with permission of the Program Director). Extensions will be given only for legitimate and unusual situations. Extensions are contracted by the student with the program for up to a maximum of 6 months after the deadline for the course work. *PLEASE NOTE: Grades for coursework submitted late may be reduced at the instructor's discretion and in line with their course policy on turning in coursework after the due date. If the extension deadline is not met, the instructor will submit the final grade based on what has been received to date.*

### **Inclusive, Community-Creating Language Policy:**

Eastern Mennonite University expects all its faculty, staff, and students to adopt inclusive written and spoken language that welcomes everyone regardless of race or ethnicity, gender, disabilities, age, and sexual orientation. We will use respectful and welcoming language in all our official departmental documents and correspondence, including those put forth by way of Internet communication, and throughout all academic coursework, inclusive of classroom presentations and conversations, course syllabi, and both written and oral student assessment materials (see CJP Student Resources moodle page or request a complete copy along with best practices from the Academic Program Coordinator).

### **Title IX:**

*The following policy applies to any incidents that occur (on or off campus) while you are a student registered at EMU. It does not apply if you are talking about incidents that happened prior your enrollment at EMU.* It is important for you to know that all faculty and staff members are required to report known or alleged incidents of sexual violence (including sexual assault, domestic/relationship violence, stalking). That means that faculty and staff members cannot keep information about sexual violence confidential if you share that information with them. For example, if you inform a faculty or staff member of an issue of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination he/she will keep the information as private as he/she can, but is required to bring it to the attention of the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to talk to this office directly, Irene Kniss, Title IX Coordinator, can be reached at 540-432-4302 or [irene.kniss@emu.edu](mailto:irene.kniss@emu.edu). Additionally, you can also report incidents or complaints through the online portal at <http://emu.edu/safecampus/>. You may report, confidentially, incidents of sexual violence if you speak to Counseling Services counselors, Campus Ministries' pastors, or Health Services personnel providing clinical care. These individuals, as well as the Title IX Coordinator, can provide you with information on both internal & external support resources. Please refer to the Student Handbook which can be found at <https://emu.edu/cms-links/graduate/docs/graduate-student-handbook.pdf> for additional policies, information, and resources available to you.

### **Academic Program Policies:**

For EMU graduate program policies and more CJP-specific graduate program policies, please see <https://helpdesk.emu.edu/confluence/display/gradcatalog/Graduate+Catalog+Home>.

**Writing Standards –Graduate Level (revised Spring 2016)**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>A excellent</b>	<b>B adequate expectations</b>	<b>C below expectations</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Content</b> <i>(quality of the information, ideas and supporting details)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows clarity of purpose</li> <li>offers depth of content</li> <li>applies insight and represents original thinking</li> <li>follows guidelines for content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows some clarity of purpose</li> <li>offers some depth of content</li> <li>applies some insight and some original thinking</li> <li>mostly follows guidelines for content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows minimal clarity of purpose</li> <li>offers minimal depth of content or incorrect content</li> <li>applies minimal insight and original thinking</li> <li>does not follow guidelines for content</li> </ul>	
<b>Structure</b> <i>(logical order or sequence of the writing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows coherence, and logically developed paragraphs</li> <li>uses very effective transitions between ideas and sections</li> <li>constructs appropriate introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows some coherence and some logically developed paragraphs</li> <li>uses some effective transitions between ideas &amp; sections</li> <li>shows some construction of appropriate introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows minimal coherence and logically developed paragraphs</li> <li>uses minimal transitions between ideas and sections</li> <li>shows minimal construction of appropriate introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>	
<b>Rhetoric and Style</b> <i>(appropriate attention to audience)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is concise, eloquent and rhetorically effective</li> <li>effectively uses correct, varied and concise sentence structure</li> <li>is engaging to read</li> <li>writes appropriately for audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is somewhat concise, eloquent, and rhetorically effective</li> <li>generally uses correct, varied, and concise sentence structure</li> <li>is somewhat engaging to read</li> <li>generally writes appropriately for audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows minimal conciseness, eloquence, and rhetorical effectiveness</li> <li>uses incorrect, monotonous or simplistic sentence structure</li> <li>is not engaging to read</li> <li>lacks appropriate writing for audience and purpose</li> <li>uses inappropriate jargon and clichés</li> </ul>	
<b>Information Literacy</b> <i>(locating, evaluating, and using effectively the needed information as appropriate to assignment)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses academic and reliable sources</li> <li>chooses sources from many types of resources</li> <li>chooses timely resources for the topic</li> <li>integrates references and quotations to support ideas fully</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses mostly academic and reliable sources</li> <li>chooses sources from a moderate variety of types of resources</li> <li>chooses resources with mostly appropriate dates</li> <li>integrates references and quotations to provide some support for ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lacks academic and reliable sources</li> <li>chooses sources from a few types of resources</li> <li>chooses a few resources with inappropriate dates</li> <li>integrates references or quotations that are loosely linked to the ideas of the paper</li> </ul>	
<b>Source Integrity</b> <i>(appropriate acknowledgment of sources used in research)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>correctly cites sources for all quotations</li> <li>cites paraphrases correctly and credibly</li> <li>includes reference page</li> <li>makes virtually no errors in documentation style</li> <li>makes virtually no errors in formatting</li> <li>incorporates feedback given in previous written assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>correctly cites sources for most quotations</li> <li>usually cites paraphrases correctly and credibly</li> <li>includes reference page with some errors</li> <li>makes some errors in documentation style</li> <li>makes some errors in formatting</li> <li>incorporates some feedback given in previous written assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides minimal sources for quotations</li> <li>sometimes cites paraphrases correctly and credibly,</li> <li>includes reference page with many errors</li> <li>makes many errors in documentation style</li> <li>makes many errors in formatting</li> <li>lacks incorporation of feedback given in previous written assignments</li> </ul>	
<b>Conventions</b> <i>(adherence to grammar rules: usage, spelling &amp; mechanics of Standard Edited English or SEE)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>makes virtually no errors in SEE conventions</li> <li>makes accurate word choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>makes some errors SEE conventions</li> <li>almost always makes accurate word choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>makes many errors in SEE conventions</li> <li>makes many inaccurate word choices</li> </ul>	
<p>The weighting of each of the six areas is dependent on the specific written assignment and the teacher's preference. Plagiarism occurs when one presents as one's own "someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source" (adapted from Council of Writing Program Administrators).</p>				



## Criteria for Evaluating Arts-Based Peacebuilding Projects

CRITERIA	A – Excellent	B – Minimal expectations	C – Below expectations	Comments
<b>Goals &amp; Audience</b> <i>Are the goals or learning objectives of the project clear? Have they been met?</i> <i>Is the intended audience clearly specified?</i> <i>Is the project appropriate for this audience?</i> <i>Does the project communicate to the intended audience?</i>	-audience & goals/learning objectives clearly identified. -project appropriate for, and likely to meet, its goals -project is appropriate for specified audience -project understandable to & likely to engage and/or communicate to audience	-audience and goals identified though not as clearly as they could be - project may meet its goals but this is not entirely clear - project is at least somewhat appropriate for, and likely to communicate to audience.	-audience and goals inappropriate or inadequately identified  -project unlikely to meet its goals and/or communicate to the audience	
<b>Methodology</b> <i>Is the overall methodology clear and appropriately used?</i> <i>Has the project incorporated specific methods required by the assignment?</i> <i>If intended as a form of intervention, has thought be given to how it will be implemented?</i>	-project incorporates inquiry methods required by the assignment -all methodologies & technologies have been appropriately used, with attention to ethical and methodological issues -if intended as intervention or advocacy, project has given adequate thought to implementation -sources & methods are adequately identified	- methodology basically appropriate to the project and appropriately used, but could be strengthened  -sources and methods identified but not as fully as they could be  -more thought should be given to implementation issues	-methodology inadequate and/or inadequately articulated.  -sources not appropriately identified  -inadequate attention to implementation issues	
<b>Analysis</b> <i>Is there evidence of critical thinking and analysis?</i>	- evidence of critical thinking about methods, sources, information and analysis or editing. -uses analysis/editing methods appropriate for the project -method of analysis or editing is adequately articulated	- some evidence of critical thinking but could be stronger  -analytical approach and the analysis itself is basically appropriate but could be stronger and/or articulated better.	-inadequate evidence of critical thinking  -analysis lacking or inadequate  -analytic approach inappropriate or inadequately specified	
<b>Craft &amp; Coherence</b> <i>Is the level of artistic and/or technical craft adequate for the specified goals and audience?</i>	- level of craft is clearly adequate for the audience & to meet project goals (whether or not it meets “artistic” standards)	-level of craft is minimally adequate for the audience and goals  -project coherence could be stronger	-level of craft inadequate for purposes and/or audience  -project is not coherent	

<p><i>Did it involve an appropriate amount of work?</i> <i>Does the final product have coherence and “resonance?”</i></p>	<p>-project is coherent &amp; likely to resonate with the intended audience -product shows an appropriate amount of effort for this assignment</p>			
<p><b>Content</b> <i>Is the content appropriate &amp; adequate, given the goals, audience &amp; assignment?</i> <i>Is there evidence of insight, originality &amp;/or creativity?</i></p>	<p>- information conveyed is clearly adequate for goals, audience &amp; assignment -shows depth &amp; breadth of content -shows insight, originality &amp;/or creativity</p>	<p>-information conveyed is adequate but could be strengthened  -some evidence of insight, originality, or creativity</p>	<p>-inadequate information  -little or no evidence of insight, originality and/or creativity</p>	
				<b>Grade</b>

## Criteria for Evaluating Arts-Based Peacebuilding Projects

### **Background notes:**

- Arts approaches can be used in several different stages of a project:
  1. To gain or create knowledge. (For example, research “subjects” or participants might be engaged in an arts-based project as a way of soliciting information or encouraging insight.)
  2. To add complexity or nuance to created knowledge. (For example, an arts practice may serve as one method in a multi-method research project, creating an integrated, reflective methodology for the project. Alternatively, an arts practice could be used to analyze and/or interpret data collected by conventional methods.)
  3. To test knowledge. (For example, researchers might verify their interpretation of findings from a more traditional research process by creating a play or exhibit and testing it for resonance with their subjects.)
  4. To share findings. (For example, a play or exhibit might be created to (re)-present data collected or analyzed via conventional methods in order to impart the particular kinds of meaning the researcher considers important, and as a way to reach and engage a broader audience.)
  5. As a form of intervention. (For example, a project might be designed to raise awareness of an issue or conflict, to promote dialogue on a contested issue, or to advocate for a cause.)
- Arts-based products often do not specify methodologies used. Thus it may be important for a project to be accompanied by a short paper discussing analysis, theory of change, audience, goals, and methods used.
- Patricia Leavy, in *“Method Meets Art: Arts-based Research Practice”* (New York: Guilford Press) 2009, argues that “[t]raditional conceptions of validity and reliability, which developed out of positivism, are inappropriate for evaluating artistic inquiry.” (p. 15). She suggests that authenticity, trustworthiness, and validity can be assessed through attention to such elements as aesthetics, resonance, and vigor.
- For a discussion of standards, see “Method Meets Art” (Leavy, 2009: 15ff and Chapter 8).