Course Syllabus

Finnish Schooling & The Arts

Credits: 3.0

Course Instructors:

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*Art Education*  
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Meeting dates and times:

Summer 2019: May 21 - June 1, 2019  
On Campus Meetings Spring 2019, TBA

Location: Oulu and Helsinki, Finland

This travel course offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to travel and study the world renowned Finnish educational system and the role art & culture play in their schools and society. Students will observe classrooms and other learning spaces to identify qualities, policies, and creative practices that have propelled this school system to the top. We will travel to two Finnish cities, Helsinki and Oulu, to participate in artistic, cultural, and educational experiences through museum visits, theatrical performances, educational site visits, and hands on design and art making projects. In Oulu we will connect with the local university to participate with Finnish university students in a design hack, which uses art, design, and technology to solve an educational problem. Through these experiences we will compare and contrast our own experiences with art, culture, and education in the United States and collaboratively explore ways to infuse our travel course learning into our future artistic and educational endeavors.

Learning Outcomes:

Following the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to

- Identify examples of how the arts are used in Finnish schools and other educational settings to engage students and improve learning by making connections to experiences, observations, discussions, and readings.
- Experience Finnish art, culture, and society in effort to broaden perspective, and build cultural competence as an educator and world citizen.
- Explore social and cultural foundations of Finnish education systems in comparison to US schools.
- Reflect on travel course experiences through journaling, discussion, and creative activities.
- Summarize learning and make plans for integrating learning into future experiences as an educator/artist.
Course Requirements

- A 3 hour pre-trip module that will provide context for our course and baseline information about the Finnish schools and schools systems. Handmade travel journals will be created to be used throughout our trip. A written reflection will be required at the end of this session including a rationale for students’ interest in this course and established learning goals. (10% of your grade) (Time and Place TBD)

- Professionalism and attendance during the trip are of utmost importance in effort to get the most out of the course and be an active participant in the collective learning experience. (50% of your grade)

- A reflective log of your daily experiences (20% of your grade).

- A final reflection project that highlights your learning from this trip: Due within 10 days of your return (20% of your grade).

Readings:

Additional readings provided on Blackboard

Assignments:

1. Personal reflection on introductory workshop/ module: Setting reasons for and goals for trip/ course
2. Daily Journals: Making connections to experiences, lectures, and readings
   - Experience (What did you do?)
   - Impact (how did this affect your learning?)
   - Application (how will you apply your learning into your practice?)
   - Creative Response (drawing, map, photo, poem, song)
3. Final Project: As a final project for this course, we want you to reflection on your learning and experience. You may choose a variety of ways to do this:
   - A final art work and response (1 page explanation describing the work and it’s connection to your learning experience)
   - A presentation: A PowerPoint or teacher workshop that you will take back to your school or class to share.
   - Or a research paper on one aspect of the Finnish schools that you want to learn more about. What theories and practices were involved and how might that
inform your teacher practice or school reform?

4. Final Reflection: short 2-3 pages about the big impact this trip has had on your development as an educator and world citizen.

General Course Information

Course Policies/Expectations

Attendance Expectations:
As this course is hands-on, and cannot be made up through reading or individual study, students must attend all classes.

Contributions in Class: Students must participate actively in all activities, events, lectures, and seminars and be an active and engaged part of our learning community.

Academic Honesty & Professionalism:
All students are required to be familiar with and adhere to the “Academic Honesty Policy Procedures” delineated in the most recent edition of “The Cat’s Tale”. (http://www.uvm.edu/~dosa/handbook/).

Accommodations: Accommodations will be provided to eligible students with disabilities. Please obtain an accommodation letter from the ACCESS office and see one of the instructors early in the course to discuss what accommodations will be necessary. If you are unfamiliar with ACCESS, visit their website at http://www.uvm.edu/access to learn more about the services they provide. ACCESS: A-170 Living Learning Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. PH: 802-656-7753, TTY: call 711 (relay), Fax: 802-656-0739, Email: access@uvm.edu, Instant Messenger: UVM access. General office hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Call to make an appointment.

Religious Observance:
The official policy for excused absences for religious holidays: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Each semester students should submit in writing to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester. Faculty must permit students who miss work for the purpose of religious observance to make up this work.

EDSS 200 Finnish Schooling & The Arts

Itinerary and Schedule
May 21-June 1, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event/ instruction/travel</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 21-June 1</td>
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Prior to travel | There will be one seminar prior to travel in which we will have a presentation from a current Finnish education researcher. We will set our goals for this course and share key details of travel.

| Day 1: May 21 | **Travel from Boston to Helsinki**  
**Arrive Separately: Check into Hotel (Holiday Inn Helsinki City Center)**  
Group walk around Helsinki  
Dinner  
Group meeting/team building |

| Day 2-4: May 22-24 | **Visit museums & cultural events in Helsinki**  
**Day 2**  
8:30-9:30 am Breakfast @ Hotel  
10:00-12:00 Design Museum as a group  
12:00-2:00 Lunch/Break/Journal Writing  
2:00 The Cable Factory as a group  
4:00 Coffee/Tea/Reflection  
7:00 Dinner-Group  
**Day 3**  
8:30-9:30 am Breakfast @ Hotel  
10:00-12:00 Ateneum Art Museum  
12:00-2:00 Lunch/Break/Journal Writing  
2:00-4:30 Museum of Contemporary Art  
4:30 Coffee/Tea/Reflection  
7:00 Dinner-Group  
**Day 4**  
8:30-9:30 Breakfast @ Hotel  
10:00-12:30 Ateneum Art Museum  
12:30-1:30 Group Lunch/Meeting  
2:00 Open Afternoon- choice of activity- galleries, exploring Helsinki neighborhoods  
7:00 Dinner on our own  
8:30 pm Live Music Outing- Group |


| Day 5: May 25 | **Ferry to Tallinn- All Day**  
- Walking in Old Town |

| Day 6: May 26 | **Site Visits**  
8:30-9:30 Breakfast  
*morning: (TBA) University of Helsinki- lecture*  
12:30 Lunch  
*Afternoon: (TBA) Afterschool program* |
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<tr>
<th>Day 7: May 27</th>
<th><strong>Travel to Oulu</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Check into Hotel</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1:00 pm Walk around city/Lunch</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3:00 pm Meet Host, Blair Stevenson, Oulu University</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7:00 pm Dinner</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Goal setting/Journal Writing</strong></td>
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<td>Day 8: May 28</td>
<td><strong>Visits to Oulu schools and learning spaces</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8:30 Breakfast @ Hotel</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:30 Visit local schools</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12:00 Lunch-group</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1:00 Site visits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dinner</strong></td>
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<td>Day 9: May 29</td>
<td><strong>University of Oulu:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8:30 Breakfast-Hotel</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:00 am - 3:00 pm Design Thinking Art Ed Hack event day 1 (event with Oamk LABs students and possibly middle school children at an Oulu school (TBC)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6:30 pm Dinner on our own</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8:00 pm Evening cultural outing (music, show, gallerie opening, etc)</strong></td>
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<td>Day 10: May 30</td>
<td><strong>University of Oulu:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8:30 Breakfast</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:00 am- 3:00 pm Art Ed Hack event day 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6:30 pm Dinner and Group Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Day 11: May 31</td>
<td><strong>Collaboration activities with Oulu university student groups</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8:30 am Breakfast</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Morning: (Oulu Fab Lab) (e.g. 3d printers and art)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunch/Break- on our own</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Afternoon: Student-lead education tour of Oulu by bicycle</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6:00 pm Final Dinner and Celebration</strong></td>
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<td>Day 12: June 1</td>
<td><strong>Travel from Oulu to Helsinki to Boston</strong></td>
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**Grading:**

10%  Goal setting for trip

50%  Participation

10%  Daily journals- making connections to readings and art experiences

20%  Final Project (paper, presentation, project or artwork)

10%  Final reflection paper