

# Children and Education: a Silk Roads Perspective, 2007-08

## Faculty/Student Co-Learners' Covenant

### Introduction

We have come together out of common interests and a commitment to learning how to live in vital and sustainable way on the Earth. We all have different experiences, beliefs and goals. How can we create a supportive respectful environment?

### A Commitment to Respect

If we are choosing to participate in this program, we are agreeing to act according to the following principles based on respect:

1. We will take responsibility for our own work, words, actions and reactions.
2. We will listen and speak to people the way we would like people to listen and speak to us.
3. We will read and act in accordance with the Evergreen Social Contract, the Student Conduct Code, and the Sexual Harassment Policy.
4. We will abide by strong ethical standards in all our relations with members of other communities.

### An Acceptance of Responsibilities (Students)

By participating in this program as a student, I also agree to abide by the following:

1. I will attend all class meetings. Each Saturday class day is the equivalent of two evening class sessions. I will be on time and prepared to participate.

If extenuating circumstances force me to be late, I will try not to interrupt the program activity and I will make sure to learn what I missed **from other students**, not the faculty.

If I must miss a class due to illness or emergency, **I will notify my faculty in advance by phone or e-mail**. I understand that missed classes must be made up and that my make-up work must include:

- 1) Detailed transcriptions of interviews with two students and of their notes;
- 2) Demonstration of acquisition of the learning that was missed (this may require relevant research) generally through a detailed paper; and
- 3) Log describing the carrying out of activities that were missed.

I also understand that, if significant class time is missed and not sufficiently made up, I will lose credits. Missing and partial assignments may also result in lost credit. (Each week is essentially "worth" 1.6 credits.)

I understand that, as a half-time program, I am expected to put **20-25 hours** of work into program attendance and activities each week.

2. I will complete and turn in all assignments on time. I understand that late work may not be accepted or, if accepted, may not be evaluated as fully or as quickly as work submitted on time.

I will apply **high standards of scholarship** to all my work, including **typing** (double-spaced), **proofreading** and **stapling** multiple pages. As a college-level Upper Division program in which some of the credits may be Natural Science, quality scholarship is essential.

**NO WORK OR CLASS MAKE-UP WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE GIVEN.**

3. I will not present others' ideas and information as my own. I will acknowledge the ideas and information of others, whether published or those of my co-learners, when I incorporate them into my own work.

For example, I will include citations throughout my writings as appropriate and will clearly indicate when substantive ideas or language are drawn from a source; this might include quotation marks and/or phrasing such as: According to Gunther,...

4. I will take the initiative to seek guidance from my faculty if significant difficulties arise between myself and other individuals or with the program activities, although I will try to resolve them directly with the people involved first.

I will also seek to resolve confusions and uncertainties, first through discussion with classmates, then questioning my faculty. E-mail is the best means for beginning this process with faculty. I will do this in a timely matter rather than waiting until potential problems result.

5. Since learning experiences rarely turn out to be exactly what we anticipate or hope, I will take initiative to assure that my needs are met as the program unfolds. There are a number of means by which I might choose to do this. These include:

- 1) Being open to learning from the unexpected or unplanned;
- 2) Being flexibly responsive to changes;
- 3) Seeking out supplementary information as desired;
- 4) Seeking opportunities to work with other students;
- 5) Utilizing tutoring options;
- 6) Giving timely feedback and creative suggestions to faculty with respect and with the anticipation of being heard and valued; and
- 7) Understanding that there may be more factors involved in the development, content and delivery of a learning program than I am aware of.

6. I will write a self-evaluation, and a faculty/program evaluation. I understand that evaluation conferences are not required until a student leaves the program, but that I may request one prior to this time if I so desire.

**An Acceptance of Responsibilities (Faculty)**

By participating in this program as a faculty member, I agree to abide by the following:

1. I will do my best to create and maintain a high-quality program of learning opportunities. I will take full responsibility for my work, behavior, presence, and awareness, and allow others their own responsibility. And I will do my best to support the learning process of each student.
2. I will review and return homework in a timely fashion.
3. I will contact my Program Secretary, Sharon Wendt (x6588), in advance if an absence cannot be avoided and seek to make alternative arrangements for class activities.
4. I will advise students who are in danger of not receiving full credit during the fifth week of the quarter or when it becomes apparent. I will award each student eight credits per quarter for doing high-quality college-level work, for good attendance, and for completing all assignments on time. I may award less than eight credits for work that fails to meet these criteria, but will do so only after consultation with the student.
5. I will complete a written evaluation the program and myself.
6. I will be prepared for and attend weekly faculty team planning meetings focused on the facilitation of student learning. I also will work to support and encourage my teaching partner's work in order to bring students the best of their scholarship and skills.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hirsh Diamant