

LIBERIA

Post-traumatic Growth of a Nation



J-Term 2014

We will be travelling to Liberia, one of the poorest countries in the world. Participants will have the opportunity to observe a nation in posttraumatic growth after 14 years of civil war. Program highlights include:

- Working alongside Liberian citizens in community organization and rehabilitation projects;
- Meeting Liberian University students, interviewing government officials, visiting ancient markets, making day trips to villages, and enjoying music and dance;
- Being introduced to international work and learning about the impact of trauma on cultural development.

Post-traumatic Growth of a Nation

Credit:

SOCW 387

- Department Credit
- GLST Credit with approval of Chair

Program Cost:

\$4,500

Includes airfare, lodging, program related transportation, and supplemental study abroad insurance.

Faculty:

JoDee Keller
Associate Professor of Social Work
253-535-7633
kellerjg@plu.edu

Jeni Gregory, an alumna of PLU, with extensive experience in trauma work in Liberia, also will be working with the class.

For further information contact the Wang Center for Global Education

253-535-7577
Wang.center@plu.edu

<http://www.plu.edu/studyaway/>

Course Description:

The resource-rich country of Liberia is finding its way back from 14 years of civil war. It is home to two 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winners: Ellen Sirleaf Johnson - the first democratically-elected woman president on the African continent and, Leymah Gbowee - an influential peacemaker in Liberia. We will read and reflect upon writings by both women and learn about strengths and resiliency following trauma at both individual and community levels. We also will participate in a service project in the capital city of Monrovia *and interact* with community residents and service providers. We will visit field sites where social work, community organization and development work is taking place (NGOs, U of Liberia, schools). Students will also tour Monrovia and surrounds to gain a sense of life in a developing country. Classroom instruction will focus on Liberia as a globally visible laboratory for socio-economic impact from the implementation of policies under their first woman president.

Application Deadline:

September 30, 2013. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required with the application. A \$250 non-refundable payment to confirm participation in the course is due within 10 days of notification of acceptance. Maximum 18 students. Dr. Keller also requires a supplementary application to be submitted via email. Interviews may be required. Please find supplemental application on the Wang Center website. Program fee does not include \$115 cost for yellow fever vaccine which is a requirement for the Liberian visa.

