

Greetings Travel-Oriented Students,

I am pleased to share with you that I have a few seats remaining in my j-term course to Northern Ireland. If you were hoping to study next January in courses going to places such as Turkey, Egypt, Italy, Antarctica, Ecuador, Hungary, Liberia, Namibia or similar, then you might be surprised to find a connection to my course in Northern Ireland. The course is a study of community and culture; of war and post-war; of peace building through community building - in schools, community centers, art projects, municipality management, and more.

Students from the J-term 2012 course have describe it as "a truly transformational experience" , "the most meaningful experience of my time at PLU", and "the turning point in my life". A few also commented "especially grateful for the practical skills and the certification to put on my resume!" and "appreciative for the open invitation to return anytime, to stay with my new friends".

Please consider joining me (and Retired-Legendary Professor Ann Kelleher) next January.

For those who do not know me, I am a professor of communication with expertise in conflict management and peacebuilding. I am an inter-disciplinary practitioner and scholar with degrees in theatre, communication, cultural anthropology and transformative pedagogy. I am also a life-long learner and traveler. Education and travel are in my blood. Though impoverished as young adults my parents, Don and Mary, started traveling early in life, whether by hook or by crook. As a young family, though poor, we traveled the continental U.S. and North America with quite an unusual goal (a story for another time). Today, Don and Mary have been to some 70 countries. Mary just returned from a trip to Central America (Bolivia & Columbia) and has already planned her next trip in 2014 to China and Tibet. Last year Don and Mary visited Cuba on a service-learning trip, followed shortly thereafter by a trip to the Canadian Maritimes. In 2010, Mary and I traveled to the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, land of Gross National Happiness. Mary is a cultural anthropologist and Don is a historian. So you can see I come by my love of learning and travel quite honestly. Enough about me....

The course focuses on the study of communication and conflict. This course is excellent for students in areas such as communication, political science, business, philosophy, global studies, education, women's studies, social work, and psychology. Anyone interested in understanding how to manage difficult situations in a community will benefit from this course. Anyone interested in culture and cultural tensions would benefit from this course. Anyone who seeks a personal journey would benefit.

Specifically, you will learn about the community and peace building practices used post-1998 Belfast agreement. We will be located in Derry/Londonderry for the month, with some time for excursions. You will meet with former soldiers, combatants and prisoners. You will meet with those involved in integrated schooling, the parades commission, the community council, the Bogside mural artists, youth programs, women's groups, and other similar peace work.

By participating in the course, you will receive a resume-worthy certificate in conflict management from the Junction following participation in a week-long training.

COMA 393/POLS 401 Dialogue in Northern Ireland counts for either a Communication or a Political Science course (if taken as POLS, then it can count as a Gen.Ed.). It also counts for those interested in Global Studies credits. You may also petition your major or minor department to have the class count there as well.

By Fall 2013 students must have one of the following courses prerequisites: COMA 304, 313 or 340 OR POLS 210, 331, or 332 ***or equivalent experience***. Course fee is \$5700, includes travel, housing breakfast 7 days a week and lunch 5 days a week, training, speakers, tour to Belfast, entrance fees to cultural attractions, etc.

You may still apply by visiting the Wang Center for applications. Or, if you have already submitted an application contact the Wang Center and ask that your application be transferred to me for review.

Contact me at x7768 or fellerae@plu.edu, with course questions.

I look forward to reviewing your application and answering your questions.

Thank you,
Professor Amanda Feller