Frequently Asked Questions for WA3381/AA5381
Arts for a Better Future

What is the course about?
In this course, students will learn to help a community recognize, value, and plan to use its own arts to meet local needs and goals. The course provides a compact overview of the Create Local Arts Together (CLAT) model of community engagement. The CLAT process consists of seven flexible steps grounded in ethnographic and appreciative inquiry approaches: meet a community and its arts; specify goals; select communication genre and content; analyze the genre; spark creativity; improve new works and creative systems; integrate and celebrate for continuity. Students will engage with the model through three pedagogical cycles, culminating in applying it to a real-life context.

What will the course prepare me to do?
This course prepares students to be able to:

• Describe and analyze the purposes and interrelationships of the seven *Create Local Arts Together* (CLAT) steps
• Consult with a community representative as he or she plans to draw on their artistic resources in working toward a better future
• Document and analyze some of the artistic resources of a community, including their plans to engage those arts for a better future

Is the course only offered as an online graduate course at GIAL?
Participants have 3 options when taking Arts for a Better Future. It’s offered as:

• A *one-week intensive workshop* – a one-week (on campus face-to-face) course
• An *undergraduate course* (WA 3381) – for GIAL undergraduate course credit. The course includes the one-week intensive along with additional pre-class reading and writing as well as a post-class project and write-up (all submitted online).
• A *graduate course* (AA 5381) – for GIAL graduate course credit. Like the undergraduate course, this version also includes the one-week intensive along with additional pre-class reading and writing. Students complete a post-class project and write-up, submitting all pre and post-class work online.

Besides the extra assignments, are there any significant differences in the “Workshop” versus the “For Credit” version of the course?
Participants in the one-week intensive workshop receive the same training as GIAL undergraduate and graduate students. At the end of the workshop, all are equipped to help communities draw on their artistic resources to respond to spiritual, social, and physical needs. With the required post-class project, *graduate students* immediately apply their new skills in the context of their local communities and write up a description of the experience for their final project. *Undergraduate students* will write about how they plan to use their newly acquired skills with a community they know.
How do I register for the course?

• **ABF Workshop** [http://artsforabetterfuture.org](http://artsforabetterfuture.org)
• **For Undergraduate or Graduate Credit** [http://www.gial.edu/admissions/applications](http://www.gial.edu/admissions/applications).

Choose the easy “Gateway” application for those not wanting to take further coursework at GIAL.

When is the deadline for applying and having all my application materials for Arts for a Better Future? All application materials (including transcripts, etc.) must be at GIAL for processing by May 1, 2015. Apply now to make sure! If you only intend to take 1-3 courses at GIAL, you can apply through the "Gateway Admission" which is faster.

How much does the course cost?

• **For the ABF Workshop:**
  
  $130 per person covers
  
  • registration and materials for the event
  • no housing/meals
  • code "NHM" needed at registration

  $225 per person covers
  
  • registration and materials for the event
  • no housing/all meals provided
  • code "NH" needed at registration

  $350 per person covers
  
  • a shared room Sunday-Friday nights at the Guest House
  • all meals
  • materials for the course
  • registration for the event
  • no "code" needed

• **For undergraduate and graduate credit hours:**

The link to tuition and fees is here: [http://www.gial.edu/tuition-fees/](http://www.gial.edu/tuition-fees/). You may pay for housing and/or food through the workshop course website at [http://artsforabetterfuture.org](http://artsforabetterfuture.org).

What housing is available for the on-campus part of the course?

Additional information on housing may be found here: [http://www.artsforabetterfuture.org/room-board.html](http://www.artsforabetterfuture.org/room-board.html)

Are there scholarships available?

There are scholarships that you may apply for if you are a full-time GIAL student, but not if this is your only course at GIAL.

When does the online course work start?

The course runs May 26-August 18, so the "online" course work (reading and written responses - no classes) will start on May 26. But we will mail out the syllabus to all who are registered in early May so you can start reading early if you wish. After the residential part of the course, you will submit your final project online (August).
Does the online component include recorded lectures?
No. The course is not really “online” as all teacher input is face-to-face during the week long intensive. There are no recorded lectures or videos posted online. It’s only “online” in that the assignments are submitted online.

When should I arrive and depart?
It is very important to plan your travel so that you can be there for Sunday evening intros on June 7 and all of the class sessions through Friday, June 12, at 5:00 PM.

What are the approximate hours of work per week?
- The workshop has only about 1-2 hours of reading before class starts and no projects afterwards.
- The undergraduate course requires approximately 75 hours of work outside class time (plus or minus 20 hours, depending on the work speed of the student). These hours are spread over the whole summer session, with pre-reading and written responses plus post-intensive writing of a final paper.
- The graduate course requires an average of between 80 and 120 hours of work outside the intensive course (but actual times depend on the work speed of the student).

What is the residential part of the course like?
- We begin with a dinner and "get to know you" session on Sunday night, June 7.
- Class runs each morning from 9 – 12 and each afternoon from 2 – 5.

ABF takes students through three cycles of the CLAT process. CLAT consists of 7 steps that guide an arts advocate in their work helping a community draw on their arts to reach their physical, spiritual, and social goals. It's basically a participatory method of engagement:

**Phase One:** Brian Schrag tells/shows/perform the story of his engagement with the Mono community in NW Democratic Republic of Congo. Phase One gives participants a mental framework of the CLAT process.

**Phase Two:** Instructors Brian Schrag and Robin Harris work through a more detailed demonstration of each of the 7 CLAT steps, using Robin’s experiences, data, and relationships from a group in northern Siberia. This phase includes helping students work with a representative of the Siberian group. Participants learn basic elements of a song/dance form foreign to them, and then compose within it. Phase Two results in paradigm shifts in most participants, viscerally understanding the importance and methods of encouraging people to create from within.

**Phase Three:** We divide the participants into smaller groups planning to apply the CLAT process to communities they know. Phase Three allows them to make initial plans to integrate local arts into extensions of the Kingdom of Heaven in contexts they care about.
See a sample course schedule below:

**Schedule for ABF, March 8 (PM) to 13, 2015 – Alaska Bible College, Palmer AK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 13</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45-9:30</td>
<td>Arts With God</td>
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<td>9:30-10:45</td>
<td>Phase 1 Begins</td>
<td>Setting the Scene:</td>
<td>Select Local Arts</td>
<td>Spark Creativity</td>
<td>Phase 3 Begins</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Creating Local Arts</td>
<td>to Reach Kingdom Goals</td>
<td>for The Sakha</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Together (CLAT)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
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<td>10:45-11:00</td>
<td>break</td>
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<td>11:00-12:15</td>
<td>Phase 2 Begins</td>
<td>Meet the Community:</td>
<td>Analyze: Learning</td>
<td>Spark Creativity</td>
<td>Plan for kingdom</td>
<td>Plan in Groups</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>The Sakha of Siberia</td>
<td>about an Artistic</td>
<td>for The Sakha</td>
<td>Creativity in a</td>
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<td>(1a)</td>
<td>Event (4a)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>Community You Know</td>
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<td>12:15-2:00</td>
<td>Lunch, free time</td>
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<td>2:00-3:15</td>
<td>Exploring the Arts</td>
<td>Analyze: Identifying</td>
<td>Improve and Celebrate</td>
<td>Plan in groups</td>
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<td>Excite Us! Share Your</td>
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<td>Among the Sakha (1b)</td>
<td>Arts Within an Event</td>
<td>your Creativity (6/7)</td>
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<td>Plans</td>
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<td>3:15-3:45</td>
<td>break</td>
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<td>break</td>
<td>break</td>
<td>break</td>
<td>Farewells</td>
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<td>3:45-5:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Discover and Specify</td>
<td>Analyze: Connecting</td>
<td>Arts and the Kingdom</td>
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<td>God sends you out with</td>
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<td>Kingdom Goals for</td>
<td>the Event to its</td>
<td>of Heaven</td>
<td>Plan in groups</td>
<td>courage!</td>
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<td>The Sakha (2)</td>
<td>Cultural Context (4c)</td>
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<td>5:00-5:30</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>7pm Get to know each</td>
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<td>Social night:</td>
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<td>other, course overview</td>
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<td>share your ‘heart</td>
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What textbooks are used?

[Purchase at [http://ethnodoxologyhandbook.com/manul](http://ethnodoxologyhandbook.com/manul) or at GIAL’s Center for Excellence in World Arts—[http://www.gial.edu/world-arts-center/](http://www.gial.edu/world-arts-center)—if you are in Dallas.]

What percent of the focus is on performing arts vs. visual arts?
We attempt to cover all artistic domains equally in this course (visual arts, music, drama, dance, and oral verbal arts like poetry and storytelling) so that students are prepared to facilitate all kinds of artistic expressions, according to the needs of the community.

What background material could I read to prepare for the course?
No background material is required other than *Creating Local Arts Together: A Manual to Help Communities Reach their Kingdom Goals* (CLAT Manual). Non-credit students are not required to read the CLAT Manual; however, we highly recommend that they do, if at all possible, and that they take notes while reading.

Who teaches the course?

**Brian Schrag, PhD**, serves as head of SIL International's Ethnomusicology and Arts Group. He worked as an arts consultant in Central Africa and founded the World Arts program at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL). Brian loves to make people laugh, sing, and imagine heaven.

**Robin Harris, PhD**, has M.A.s in Intercultural Studies and Ethnomusicology and a Ph.D. in Music (Ethnomusicology). She lived for a decade in northern Russia as well as a number of years in Alaska and Canada. She is the Coordinator of the MA in World Arts at GIAL. She is also President of the International Council of Ethnodoxologists and serves as an Arts Consultant with SIL International.