

Frequently Asked Questions for AA5383 - Arts in Trauma Healing

What is the course about?

This course teaches a holistic, interactive approach to engaging Scripture in the healing process for people who suffer from the mental, emotional, and spiritual effects of trauma. It combines biblical truths with basic mental health principles expressed in ways that can be easily translated into other languages. Students learn to address both beliefs and emotions damaged by trauma, both in their own lives and in the lives of others. They learn to use participatory learning methods to train local church leaders in ways that help them to become effective care-givers. In particular, this course will emphasize the importance of performing and visual arts in trauma healing. Students will understand and be able to articulate and demonstrate the role, the value, and the effectiveness of using the arts in trauma healing from a historical and contemporary perspective. Students will be able to promote emotional and spiritual healing in traumatized communities through the use of local visual and performing arts existing in those communities.

What will the course prepare me to do?

This course prepares students to be able to:

- Explain the scope of trauma in the world and its impact on individuals and communities.
- Respond in helpful, culturally appropriate ways to trauma, in their own lives and the lives of others.
- Be able to deliver basic trauma care in a healing group
- Demonstrate understanding of the theory and practice of using the arts in the healing process.
- Research trauma in a community and evaluate current responses, including those incorporating arts
- Help communities discover how to use their art forms in the trauma healing process.

When is the deadline for applying and having all my application materials for Arts in Trauma Healing? All application materials (including transcripts, etc.) must be at GIAL for processing by December 9, 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.

What does a 3-unit grad course like this cost? The link to tuition and fees is here: <http://www.gial.edu/admissions/tuition-and-fees-graduate>

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 Jan 7- March 7, so the "online" course work (reading and written responses - no classes) will start on Jan 7. But we will mail out the syllabus to all who are registered in mid-December so you can start reading early if you wish. After the residential part of the course, you will submit your final project online (early March).

What is the residential part of the course like?

- We begin with a dinner and "get to know you" session on Sunday night, Feb 7.
- Monday morning, Feb 8, is ORIENTATION for new students just arriving on campus.
- Class runs each afternoon, 1:25 - 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

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 Feb 7 and *all of the class sessions* through Friday, February 19th, at 5:00 PM. There is an optional, but recommended session on the second Tuesday evening of the residential part of the course.

What housing is available for the on-campus part of the course? Prices and other information about housing on our GIAL campus can be found here:

<http://www.gial.edu/student-life/housing> and to reserve housing you can write to housing_dallas@sil.org. You are expected to arrange for your own housing.

Approximate hours of work per week? Unless you are a fast worker, graduate level courses generally require approximately 2-3 times the amount of homework in relation to instructional time (which is 40 hours), so approximately 100 hours (plus or minus 20 hrs) spread over two months. This is only an average amount of work... some students work more slowly or more quickly.

What textbooks are used? Final list of textbooks will go out to registrants in December, but here is the tentative list:

Advance purchase (for use in reading during January)

- Herman, Judith. 1992. *Trauma and Recovery: the aftermath of violence—from domestic abuse to political terror*. NY, NY. [For vendors, see [here](#)]
- Schrag, Brian. 2013. *Creating Local Arts Together: A Manual to Help Communities Reach their Kingdom Goals*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library. [Purchase [here](#) or at GIAL's [Center for Excellence in World Arts](#), if you are in Dallas]
- Mollica, Richard F. 2008. *Healing Invisible Wounds: Paths to Hope and Recovery in a Violent World*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Publishers. [For vendors, see [here](#)]
- Malchiodi, Cathy A. 2005. *Expressive Therapies*. NY: Guilford Press. [For vendors, see [here](#)]

Purchase on campus (during the residential portion of the course)

- Hill, Harriet, Margaret Hill, Richard Bagge, Pat Miersma. 2013. *Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help*. American Bible Society, NY, NY.
- Hill, Harriet and Margaret Hill. 2013. *Trauma Healing Facilitator's Classic Handbook Handbook*. NY, NY: American Bible Society.
- Hill, Harriet and Margaret Hill. 2013. *Story-based Trauma Healing: Stories, Songs, and Exercises*. NY, NY: American Bible Society.
- Hill, Harriet, Margaret Hill, Debbie Braaksma, Lyn Westman. 2013. *Healing Children's Wounds of Trauma: Facilitator's Book and Healing Hearts Club Story and Activity Book*. NY, NY: American Bible Society.

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 traumatized person or community.

What background material could I read to prepare for the course? You should begin the course reading as soon as you're able (and have the syllabus). Background material on the Trauma Healing Institute (THI) site <http://thi.americanbible.org> would provide some information as well. Dr. Harriet Hill, who directs THI, is the lead professor for the course. You can also look at the film trailer for a new documentary done on THI: www.americanbible.org/hope-rising

Who teaches the course?

Harriet Hill serves as the Program Director for the Trauma Healing Institute, a ministry of the American Bible Society. She became involved in Bible translation as a means to Scripture Engagement in 1980, serving with SIL first in Cote d'Ivoire, then across Africa, and finally internationally. She completed her PhD at Fuller in 2003. Trauma Healing came into her life in 2001 as a means of helping communities devastated by war find restoration. She is a co-author of several books on Trauma Healing used in this course.

Mary Beth Saurman has worked as an Ethnomusicology and EthnoArts Consultant and Coordinator for SIL Int'l for two decades, advocating for the music and arts of ethnic minority groups. Before that she worked as a Music and Dance Therapist for 9 years and as a Creative Arts Therapist for 5 years. She earned a BS in Music Therapy, an MA in Intercultural Studies - Ethnomusicology, and is a PhD Candidate at the University of Bern (Switzerland) with a focus on ethnoarts and multilingual education. She currently lives in Thailand and trains others as catalysts for culturally relevant arts.

Patricia Miersma - RN, MN (UCLA) serves as SIL Global Counseling Coordinator, specializing in community and cross-cultural issues related to trauma healing and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She is co-author of *Healing Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help*, and a senior consultant/trainer for its related workshops. She and her husband are RCA missionaries, seconded to Wycliffe Bible Translators as counselors since 1980, serving in Papua New Guinea and Africa, where they helped establish Tumaini Counseling Center in Nairobi.