

Gateways for Incarcerated Youth

Fall-Winter-Spring 2024-25

a 16-credit program designed for sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Faculty for Fall-Winter: Therese Saliba, PhD (salibat@evergreen.edu)

Faculty for Spring only: Sonja Wiedenhaupt, PhD (wiedenhs@evergreen.edu)

Program Coordinator (Fall-Winter-Spring): Talib Williams, MPA (williade@evergreen.edu)



FIELDS OF STUDY:

Community Studies, Education, Feminism & Gender Studies, Political Economy & Political Science, Sociology & Anthropology

PATH (Intermediate level):

Political Economy, Global Studies and Environmental Justice

This program offers Evergreen students the opportunity to combine theory and practice, and to learn together with youth incarcerated in Green Hill Academic School, a medium/maximum-security institution located in Chehalis, WA.

Students interested in enrolling in the program will be asked to complete an application and participate in an informal info session/interview. Please email Talib Williams for an application, and let us know you have any questions. We're happy to let you know more about this amazing program!

In the Gateways program, which has been running since 1996, the learning of Evergreen students fuels and is fueled by the learning of Green Hill students. We proceed from the premise that **every person is an expert in their own life** and has valuable experiences that can contribute to our shared learning. It is our responsibility as **co-learners** in this program to accompany and empower each other in our studies.

High-stakes community-based work requires **trust**, and trust requires sustained **commitment**. **This program requires that all participants be ready to commit themselves to the program for the entire academic year.** The program entails 10 hours a week in class on the Olympia campus and 4-6 hours a week at the institution (including travel time to Green Hill) on Tuesday morning or afternoons.

We will take advantage of the practices of **liberation education** to cultivate an environment where this learning together becomes possible. The content of our inquiry will accordingly be shaped collaboratively: in part by the faculty's training (cultural and gender studies, political economy, and education), in part by the interests of Evergreen students, and in part by the interests of Green Hill students. All students will wrestle with topics in **diversity and social justice** alongside other subjects chosen by the incarcerated students; the main feature of popular education is that it empowers those seeking education to be the local experts in shaping their own course of study.

Popular education works through conscientization, the ongoing process of joining with others to give a name to socioeconomic conditions, to reflect critically on those conditions, and thereby to imagine new possibilities for living. In order to do this work successfully, students will practice learning how to meet other learners where they are at (literally, in order to better understand the conditions that put some of us in prisons and others in colleges).

Most importantly, students will learn that **solidarity** does not mean saving other people or solving their problems; rather it means creating conditions that allow them to articulate those problems through **genuine dialogue** and supporting them as they work toward their own solutions.

Program participants will have the opportunity to reflect on how different individuals access and manifest their learning as they gain experience in **facilitating discussions and workshops**. In the process of collectively shaping the Gateways seminar, they will also learn how to **organize productive meetings and work through conflict**. Each quarter, students will take increasing responsibility for designing, implementing, and assessing the program workshops and seminars. Throughout the year, we will seek to expand our collective knowledge of how our bodies heal from stress, and how the tools of public health can measure and break cycles of violence and incarceration.

Students interested in enrolling in this program can familiarize themselves with Gateways program before applying: <http://www.evergreen.edu/gateways>.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

ALL CLASSES ARE IN-PERSON

Monday

10am – 12pm: Lecture/Workshop

1pm-3pm: Seminar

Tuesday

10am-2pm or 3:00pm – 7pm: Time at Green Hill, with travel

Thursday

10am-12pm: Debrief, Lecture/Workshop

1pm-3pm: Workshop/Seminar

BOOKS UNDER CONSIDERATION (in addition to a Program Reader of articles & chapters)

- *Are Prisons Obsolete?* (Angela Davis)
- *Understanding Mass Incarceration: A People's Guide to the Key Civil Rights Struggle of Our Times* (James Kilgore)
- *Abolition Geography: Essays Toward Liberation* (Ruth Wilson Gilmore)
- *Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair* (Danielle Sered)
- *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love* (bell hooks)
- *Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters* (Wally Lamb)
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness* (Michelle Alexander)