COURSE TITLE: JCG 390-E1/RPS 590-E1 APPALACHIAN CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY: IMMERSION COURSE IN THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS IN KENTUCKY
(3 credit hours) (1 credit hour of Service Learning for Undergraduates possible)

PREREQUISITES: A 100 level religion course and sociology course preferred.

INSTRUCTOR: John Trokan, D. Min., CL 21 Admin. Bldg. (office hours MWF 1-3pm or by appt.); office: 244-4272/fax: 244-4788, john_trokan@mail.msj.edu
Dave Scharfenberger MSW dscharfenberger@juno.com.

COURSE MEETS: Wednesdays (2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 2016) from 6:30-9:20 p.m.

Catholic Committee on Appalachia ”At Home in the Web of Life”, Pastoral Message on Sustainable Communities in Appalachia, 1999.
NOTE: Additional articles available on Course Electronic Reserve as necessary.

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be a field experience in the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky and will focus on understanding Appalachian Culture and Religion. We will examine how culture affects religion, how religion affects culture, and explore how the dynamic interplay of these two can affect personal religious development, lifestyle, behavior and family, social, ecological, economic and political systems. Special attention will be focused on social analysis of the poverty in Appalachia, issues of social and environmental justice, and exploration of strategies for future sustainability in the region. The course can be taken for graduate, undergraduate, Honors and Service Learning credit. Five classroom sessions will be conducted to develop the academic learning of the experience.

Faculty: John Trokan, D.Min., RPS Dept.,

Class Dates: Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:20 p.m.
(2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 2016)

Cost: $160 plus tuition
Location: Eastern Kentucky: Jackson, Owsley, and Rockcastle Counties.

APPALACHIA
The Appalachia six-day immersion trip affords students the opportunity to experience mountain culture and spirituality in the hills of Eastern Kentucky through interaction with an Appalachian family. Students will also experience the richness of mountain life through Appalachian educators, artisans and leaders.
Host Site: The Christian Appalachian Project’s Spring Break Workfest organizes a week of home repair in Eastern Kentucky. This region of ‘Appalachia’ is comprised of some of the poorest counties in the U.S. The greatest identified need in these counties is improved and sustainable housing.

Transportation: Mount St. Joseph van (drivers have completed van safety training with MSJ campus police). The host site location is generally a three-hour drive time from the Mount. In addition, students will travel approximately 1½ to 2 hours (total) each day in transit to the work site on hilly mountain roads.

Lodging: Students will live in community, dormitory style, in a camp or community center near the county they are working in. Lodging will be shared with students from eight other colleges from around the country. Students will assist with food preparation on a rotating basis.

Activities: Students will interact with Appalachian Mountain families each day, and participate in cultural, musical, artistic, historical and spiritual presentations each evening. Daytime activity will be on-site home repair work with the Appalachian family. Prior home repair skills are not required.

Health Care Facilities: First aid treatment is available on site. Medical care and emergency treatment is available in the closest major city, generally a one-hour drive.

Climate: Weather conditions in early March in Kentucky are quite variable. Students should pack for winter and spring weather conditions and outdoor activity.

Cost: Tuition plus $160.00 for room and board for the field experience.

NOTE: A completed Immersion Course Application form, Health Physical form, and health insurance are required to participate. Forms can be accessed at http://inside.msj.edu/departments/academic/religion/culturalimmersion/ or calling: Religious & Pastoral Studies Dept. (513) 244-4496.

For more information, contact your Instructor: John Trokan, 513-244-4272; john_trokan@mail.msj.edu

Students in this course or participating in this travel experience who will need, or who believe that they will need, any academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, or other accommodations because of a functional limitation due to a documented disability, should approach the instructor with this matter. They should also visit the Academic Performance Center and present documentation of their disability.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

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<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Assessment Artifact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Social Teaching (CST): Describe fundamental principles of CST</td>
<td>Students will identify and incorporate one or more of the fundamental principles of CST (life and human dignity, the importance of community, human rights and responsibilities, preferential option for the poor or vulnerable, dignity of work, human solidarity, care for creation) utilizing the social analysis praxis circle.</td>
<td>Social Analysis Paper</td>
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<td>Integrative Learning</td>
<td>Students will demonstrate critical reflection upon</td>
<td>Theological</td>
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<td>Appalachian culture and their immersion experience and its impact upon their own culture and values.</td>
<td>Reflection Journal</td>
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<td>Social Change: Explain how social injustice is perpetuated and overcome</td>
<td>Students will describe Social injustice in terms of individuals or groups marginalized by social, historical, political, and economic forces in Appalachia. Students will identify actions and strategies to confront/overcome social injustice (eg. Coal Mining and Mountain Top Removal efforts)</td>
<td>Culture and Spirituality Essay</td>
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<td>Civic Engagement: Describe how individual actions can be personally and collectively beneficial</td>
<td>Students will examine how effective individual action (e.g. volunteerism, voting, community building, political action), done over a period of time and motivated by civic and/or religious identity, contributes to the common good. Individual and community benefits of the action are explained appropriately.</td>
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<td>Global Interdependence: Examine your individual and communal responsibility for the global community</td>
<td>Students will examine at least one example of an action taken by an individual or community that has an impact on the global level (eg. Coal, Water, Timber). Students will describe individual/local interdependence and responsibility for global welfare.</td>
<td>Social Analysis Paper</td>
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<td>Cultural self-awareness: Articulate the norms and biases of one’s own culture</td>
<td>Students will identify and articulate the unique characteristics of Appalachian cultural perspectives, behaviors, values, beliefs, language, and spirituality. Students will describe how these cultural norms agree or differ with their own values and biases.</td>
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<td>Theological Reflection Journal</td>
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<td>Awareness of other cultures: Demonstrate understanding of the values, beliefs, biases, and practices important to members of another culture</td>
<td>Students will examine the diversity and complexity of elements important to Appalachian culture (e.g. history, values, politics, communication styles, economics, beliefs, practices). Students will demonstrate that the norms and biases of another culture are treated with respect.</td>
<td>Immersion Interaction with Families</td>
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<td>Culture and Spirituality Essay</td>
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III. COURSE READINGS
See Required Text above. NOTE: Additional articles available on Course Electronic Reserve as necessary.
Recommended Reading:

Brunner & Fritsch, Down to Earth Spirituality, Sheed & Ward, 1992

IV. COURSE FORMAT
Lecture, Discussion, Video, Storytelling/Story Listening, Ritualizing, Theological Reflection, Journaling, Prayer, Guided Meditation.

V. METHOD OF EVALUATION
Students will be evaluated on their ability to understand and integrate class activities, individual research and written assignments. Success in meeting the objectives will include:

- demonstrated understanding basic concepts through synthesis and integration of assigned readings into papers;
- ability to reflect upon and analyze in depth cultural, social, and religious issues;
- demonstrated application of core concepts and life experience;
- demonstrated facility in skills of cultural awareness, social analysis and theological reflection.

1. One five page essay on Appalachian Culture and Spirituality. Due 2/24 = 25%
2. Theological Reflection Journal written during the field trip experience. Due 3/16 = 25%
3. One five page Social Analysis Paper. Due April 1 = 25%
4. One five page research case study on contemporary Appalachian Justice Issue. Due April 15 = 25%

Grading scale will be:
A 93-100 Excellent
B 85-92 Good
C 77-84 Average
D 70-76 Poor

VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students are expected to attend class and to participate actively in small and large group discussions. As this course meets only over four weekends, absence will not make the heart grow fonder. Unexcused absences will lead to the reduction of the final semester grade by one letter grade.

VII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
When we use the information and language of others to enrich our reflection and research papers, we must tell the reader when we are quoting/paraphrasing and indicate the source (person, book, article, etc.) of the quotation/paraphrase.

Quoting or paraphrasing the information and/or language of a source without naming the source is plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable in an academic institution and is subject to penalty. Please consult the Student Handbook for this and other College policies on Academic Integrity.
VIII. PRE-ASSIGNMENT
Read Edwards, Asbury, Cox eds. A Handbook to Appalachia. University of Tennessee, 2006, chapters 1-3; 8-9; 11-12. As you reflect upon these readings begin to think about how the history and culture of 'Appalachia' is similar and different than your own.

IX. Course Content

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<th>2/17</th>
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<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION Overview</td>
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<td>1) Expectations Syllabus</td>
<td>1) Historical and Social Forces in Appalachia</td>
<td>1) Appalachia Religion and spirituality.</td>
<td>1) Theological Reflection on Personal Experience</td>
<td>1) Rural and Urban Appalachia (Urban Appalachian Council)</td>
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<td>2) Itinerary &amp; Methodology</td>
<td>a) Social Systems</td>
<td>b) Creed</td>
<td>2) Theology and Social Analysis: &quot;At Home in the Web of Life&quot;, Bishops Pastoral</td>
<td>2) Social Analysis of 'Issue' continued</td>
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<td>3) Culture &amp; Social Structures, Social Forces</td>
<td>b) Social Institutions</td>
<td>c) Values</td>
<td>3) Implications: rural, urban, personal - Space - Time - Sustainability</td>
<td>3) Analysis of relations among natural history, history, culture, religion and social forces/institutions in the immersion county.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Appalachian Culture</td>
<td>c) Economy &amp; Land</td>
<td>2) Story &amp; Theology Story Storytelling 'Jack Tales'</td>
<td>4) Continuing observations and integration of student learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) &quot;Appalachian Voices: Past &amp; Present&quot; Video and Discussion</td>
<td>1. Coal</td>
<td>3) Ritual &amp; Sacrament</td>
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<td>2. Timber</td>
<td>a) Worship</td>
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<td>3. Tobacco</td>
<td>b) Baptism</td>
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<td>c) Communion</td>
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<td>d) Foot washing</td>
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<td>4) 'In the Good Old Fashioned Way' video/discussion</td>
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<td>5) Theology, Spirituality &amp; Religion</td>
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Readings: Edwards, Chps. 1-3; 8-9; 11-12.
Readings: Edwards, Chps. 4-7.
Readings: Edwards, Chps. 1-3; 8-9; 11-12.
Readings: "At Home in the Web of Life" County and Regional research
Readings: Edwards chp 13 Fritsch & Gallimore 'Conclusion: An Appalachian Appropriate Technology (e-reserve)
Appalachian Culture and Spirituality Bibliography Resources

Billings, Dwight.  **Journal of Appalachian Studies.**  Appalachian Studies Association.
Catholic Committee on Appalachia.  A "At Home in the Web of Life", Pastoral Message on Sustainable Communities in Appalachia, 1999.
Cheek, Angie ed.  **Foxfire 40th Anniversary Book.**  Anchor Books, 2006
Dorgan, Howard.  **Giving Glory to God in Appalachia.**  University of Tennessee, 1990
Higgs, Manning, Miller.  **Appalachia Inside and Out: (vol 1, Conflict and Change; vol 2, Culture and Custom).**  University of Tennessee Press, 1995.
Jones, Loyal.  **Appalachian Values.**  Jesse Steward Foundation.  Ashland KY, 1994
Jones, Loyal.  **Faith and Meaning in the Southern Uplands.**  University of Illinois Press, 1999

Appalachian Online Resources

Appalachian Heritage Culture:  [http://www.appalachianpower.com](http://www.appalachianpower.com)
Appalachian Pastoral ‘At home in the web of life’:  [At home in the web of life](http://www.appalachianpower.com)
Appalachian Studies Association:  [http://appalachianstudies.org](http://appalachianstudies.org)
Appalachianbooks.com:  [http://www.appalachianbooks.com](http://www.appalachianbooks.com)
Appalachshop:  [http://www.appalshop.org](http://www.appalshop.org)
Catholic Committee of Appalachian:  [www.cathcomappalachia.org](http://www.cathcomappalachia.org)
Center for Appalachia Studies & Services:  [http://cass.etsu.edu](http://cass.etsu.edu)
Center for Concern Education for Justice:  [http://www.coc.org/ej](http://www.coc.org/ej)
Christian Appalachian Project:  [www.chrisapp.org](http://www.chrisapp.org)
College of Mount St. Joseph Electronic Reserve:  [http://reserves.msj.edu/courseindex.asp](http://reserves.msj.edu/courseindex.asp)
REL390 (Password: Appalachia)
Commission on Religion in Appalachia:  [http://www.geocities.com/appalcora/Page_1x.html](http://www.geocities.com/appalcora/Page_1x.html)
John B Stephenson Center for Appalachian & Comparative Highland Studies:  [http://www.lmc.edu/appstudies/default.htm](http://www.lmc.edu/appstudies/default.htm)
MACED Sustainable Communities: Economy, Ecology, Equity:  [http://www.maced.org/community.html](http://www.maced.org/community.html)
State of Kentucky:  [www.thinkkentucky.com](http://www.thinkkentucky.com)
This Land Is Home to Me:  [http://www.osjspm.org/cst/thisland.htm](http://www.osjspm.org/cst/thisland.htm)
University of Kentucky Appalachian Center:  [http://www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter/nav/left-nav.htm](http://www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter/nav/left-nav.htm)
Urban Appalachian Council of Greater Cincinnati:  [www.uacvoice.org](http://www.uacvoice.org)
Catholic Social Teaching Resources & Websites


Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  [http://www.accu.org](http://www.accu.org)
Catholic Relief Services  [http://www.catholicrelief.org/what/advocacy](http://www.catholicrelief.org/what/advocacy)
Center of Concern  [http://www.coc.org](http://www.coc.org)
National Catholic Education Association  [http://www.ncea.org](http://www.ncea.org)
St. Thomas University Catholic Studies  [http://www.stthomas.edu/cathstudies/cst/educ](http://www.stthomas.edu/cathstudies/cst/educ)
This Land Is Home to Me  [http://www.osjspm.org/cst/thisland.htm](http://www.osjspm.org/cst/thisland.htm)