

Course Number: MN196W **Course Title:** Appalachian Plunge (September 21 to 24)

Name of Instructor: Mark Yackel-Juleen **Semester and Year:** Fall 2022

Fulfills: Rural Ministry requirement, Open to all students—Limit 6

1 Credit Hour, Credit/No Credit only

Prospective Participants Must Apply

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sponsored by the Rural Church Network of the US and Canada (RCN) and the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center (AMERC) this experience will immerse participants in the rural context of the mountains and hollows of Appalachian Kentucky. We will base in the community of Berea, where AMERC and Berea College are located, and day trip deeper into the environs of Appalachian Kentucky. This experience will also allow participants to interact with national and regional rural leaders from a variety of denominations who are associated with the RCN. Rev. Dr. Yackel-Juleen is chair of the RCN. Airfare to and from Kentucky will be covered by the RCN and the Center for Theology and Land. Expenses while in Kentucky will be covered by AMERC. This offering is limited to 6 students. Due to the unique nature of this offering, and the financial subsidy, students must apply for admission to the course by contacting Rev. Dr. Yackel-Juleen.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To experience the dynamics of a rural community and congregation particularly in the Appalachian context (Practice of Curiosity, Practice of Complex Analysis);
- To grow in interpreting the context of rural communities (Practice of Immersion in Context, Practice of Complex Analysis);
- To reflect upon the role of pastor of a congregation in a town and country setting (Practice of Immersion in Context); and
- To reflect upon readings and experiences collaboratively with course colleagues (Practice of Collegiality).

PROCEDURE:

The experience will take place Wednesday, September 21 to Saturday, September 24. Participants will be responsible to make arrangements to be absent from other courses or responsibilities for that time. Logistics of transportation will be discussed and coordinated during the pre-immersion meeting. Events of the immersion will be coordinated by RCN and AMERC and WTS students will interact with other participants of those organizations during the immersion. The experience will be based in Berea, Kentucky. Learnings from the experience will be processed in a discussion seminar before the end of the semester.

EVALUATION:

Students are expected to attend a preliminary meeting prior to the immersion experience, actively participate in all the events of the experience, and participate in a follow-up Zoom small group verbal processing session before the end of the semester (date and time TBD).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Required:

Catte, Elizabeth. *What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia*. Cleveland, OH: Belt Publishing, 2018.

Recommended:

Sparks, Elder John. *The Roots of Appalachian Christianity: The Life and Legacy of Elder Shubal Stearns*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2001.