**Interfaith Living Learning Community Syllabus**

**2017-2018**

1. **Meet your advisors**

Carrie Seigler – Multifaith and Intern Coordinator

Academic Village Numen Lumen Pavilion 111

2960 Campus Box Elon, NC 27244

336.278.7359 (office)

864.230.2228 (cell)

cseigler@elon.edu

Rev. Dr. Joel Harter – Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life

Academic Village Numen Lumen Pavilion 203

2960 Campus Box Elon, NC 27244

336.278.7343 (office)

jharter@elon.edu

1. **Interfaith Living Learning Community description:**

The purpose of the Interfaith House LLC is to create an intentional community of where Mindful practice and exploration become the context for deeper multi-faith engagement and shared interfaith experience for a diverse group of religious and non-religious students. Interfaith House is open to any student who commits to building respectful relationships with other students from diverse backgrounds, traditions, worldviews, and practices; to exploring together how these different identities inform and ground diverse Mindful practices; and to sharing this learning and practice with the campus community to promote a more Mindful and inclusive Elon. Those living in the Interfaith House will cultivate a wider learning community of students from all class years interested in Mindfulness and multi-faith engagement.

We hope that by participating in this community, you will hone great skills that you already have, skills like building relationships that engage religious and spiritual diversity, deepening and articulating authentic engagement with one's own path, encountering differing traditions and worldviews, and engaging intersectionality of difference in sustained dialogue.

It will be a brutiful year: one that is equal parts brutal and beautiful. Understanding across lines of difference, participating in challenging conversations, and building community around mindfulness, interfaith identity, and pluralism are incredibly difficult and incredibly worthy pursuits. Our goal is to walk through these moments with grace and humility and to finish the year feeling that you successfully created a community that is sustainable and encouraged across campus.

1. **Overall Elon Living Learning Communities goals**

1. Living Learning Communities provide students with a sense of belonging in a community of their peers united by a common interest.
2. LLCs support students’ intellectual, personal, and social growth by providing them with opportunities to learn in a collaborative, engaging environment.
3. Living Learning Communities work to integrate students’ academic, social, and residential experiences, providing a seamless learning environment in which students develop “connected knowing” outside of the classroom on disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects.
4. Living Learning Communities challenge students to test their skills/knowledge through applications, experiences, reflection and synthesis outside the classroom. Examples of this include intellectual discussions, trips, projects, speakers and events.
5. Living Learning Communities provide opportunity for faculty and staff to engage in university service and student mentoring in intentional mentorship with students outside of the classroom in their field of interest or discipline.

1. **Goals specific to our Interfaith Living Learning Community**

1. To engage religious and spiritual diversity in relationship. .To seek understanding across lines of difference.
2. To deepen and articulate authentic engagement with one’s own path. To encounter differing commitments and traditions.
3. To engage intersectionality of difference in sustained dialogue.
4. To build community around mindfulness, interfaith identities, and pluralism.
5. To create a tradition of interfaith and mindful practices in residential communities at Elon.

1. **A note on LLC assessment**

At the beginning of the year, you will be asked to complete a "Where are we now?" reflection of yourself, your interfaith knowledge, your interfaith facilitation skills, and what you hope to learn through their experience in the LLC. We will make a copy of each of these letters, one for our records, and another to be given back to you at the end of the year. When you receive these letters back at the end of the spring, we will ask you to write another reflection on all that you learned and ways that you grew because of your experience in the LLC.

1. **Requirements**
2. The community will begin the semester by participating in a weekend-long retreat September 8th - 10th. Here we will participate in team-building, lay out the expectations for our year in community, explore faith traditions on two different site-visits in the Raleigh area, and plan events for the semester ahead.
3. You are required to attend interfaith dinners held twice a month on Thursdays at 6:00pm. These dinners will be held either at your house in Mill Point, the home of one of their advisors, or off-site at a faith community in the area.
4. In February, you will host visiting students for the Ripple Interfaith Conference as well as contribute to breakout sessions at the conference itself.
5. Using these already-programmed events as a springboard for future brainstorming and collaboration, the planning of additional events is open to you, the LLC members yourselves. Possible events include hosting a scavenger hunt in Mill Point, open conversations in the depot or around the pool, or hosting a tea-and-talk coffee house. More themes and projects you could plan to work on specifically for the 2017-2018 year include speaking or performing at Thursday morning Numen Lumens, hosting Shabbat dinners (on weeks Hillel does not), hosting Mill Point Yoga (can collaborate with Elon Yoga Club). Additionally, there are resources and course materials available through Interfaith Youth Core which will be available to you as you plan more educational discussions and events, and as you connect interfaith with other campus events and conversations.
6. In general, you are expected to increase the environment of inclusivity, contribute to the building of a neighborhood community, and supporting the theme of transitioning and preparing for post college life through mindfulness practices and interfaith dialogue skills and experience.
7. Finally, you will also participate in assessment measures as described above.
8. **Important dates to know for now**

August 29th LLC Kickoff event (Lakeside, 2nd floor, 6:30pm)

September 7th Sacred Sounds Coffee House open mic night

September 8th – 10th  LLC Retreat to Chapel Hill, NC

September 21st  Tashlich service of Rosh Hashanah

October 5th  The first evening of Sukkot – Tom Tov dinner at Rabbi Meir’s house

September 19th Local Diwali celebration

November 2nd  Dinner with the Tibetan monks visiting from the Kadampa Center

February 24th – 26th Ripple Interfaith Conference

*Please submit your Living Learning Community syllabus/objectives annually to Shannon Lundeen slundeen2@elon.edu. Also plan to discuss with students your ideas related to goals, curricular links, events, leadership opportunities.*