

2012 Bennion Teachers' Workshop

THE OPEN SPACE OF DEMOCRACY: HOW PLACE WRITING TRANSFORMS CLASSROOMS, COMMUNITIES, AND THE WORLD

This workshop will ask participants to consider how democracy is not simply an idea, but a place. By looking to the land around us, we can better understand how democracy is always interdependent, situated, circular, and associative. Through close observation and study, we can write ourselves into our own landscapes, demonstrating our connections with place, the past, and each other.

When: July 30 — August 3, 2012, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Utah State University, Logan, Utah (Ray B. West Building - Room 306)

Credits: 3

Course Numbers: English 5920, English 6920, Teacher Education Professional Development 5560

Registration: Complete form included in this brochure and mail to Mountain West Center at address listed.

Tuition and Fees: \$30 per credit for tuition, plus a \$40 workshop fee.

Travel Scholarships for Teachers: A limited number of travel scholarships are available. Please complete application form on this brochure.

Administered by: Mountain West Center for Regional Studies at Utah State University.

Lodging / Parking: Detailed information on lodging and parking will be sent when registration is received. Lodging options in Cache Valley may be limited due to other events during the week. Nice accommodations at a reasonable price may be arranged at the Living and Learning Community (LLC) on Utah State campus prior to May 31st. After this date arrangements at the LLC will be on a space available basis.

Terry Tempest Williams writes in *The Open Space of Democracy* that “democracy is an insecure landscape,” that neither our freedom nor our future on this planet is guaranteed and that only through reflective listening and close observation can we hope to foster the American-style democracy our founders envisioned. In this workshop, we will engage in such listening and close observation through readings, discussions, site visits, and presentations by local experts. Relying in large part on the National Writing Project model, the workshop will ask teachers to write extensively about their relationship to place. Writing not only provides a place to think on the page, but it also creates a meaningful context in which to consider ideas. In becoming place-conscious educators, we are adopting an educational philosophy that applies the principles of democracy to the act of writing. We can then convey to our middle school, high school, and post-secondary students the importance of naming not only the personal value of a farm, field, landscape, or town but how all places are united by their ability to provide sites of democratic action.

Who Should Consider Enrolling

This workshop is designed for inservice middle school and secondary school teachers who teach English, History, Social Sciences, or a related field; upper-division undergraduate students or graduate students who are preservice teaching majors or who plan on teaching; or anyone with a strong interest in the subject.

Program Directors

Dr. Jennifer Sinor is an associate professor of English at Utah State University with a background in both English Education and creative writing. She is the co-editor of the book *Placing the Academy: Essays on Landscape, Work, and Identity*. Her work has appeared in many literary magazines and was, most recently, anthologized in *The Norton Reader*.

Dr. Michael Sowder is a poet, nature writer, and an associate professor of English at Utah State University. He writes about wilderness, spirituality, and the human relationship to the natural world. His poetry collection, *The Empty Boat*, won the T.S. Eliot Award; his study of Walt Whitman, *Whitman's Ecstatic Union*, was published by Routledge, and his new poetry collection, *House Under the Moon*, is due out in September 2012.

Additional Speakers

During the week, several additional speakers will be a part of the workshop. Mark Larese-Casanova, a master naturalist, will accompany us on a half-day field trip up Logan Canyon. Another day, members from the community will be invited to describe their experiences of living in Logan. Toward the end of the week, an expert on the Bear River Massacre will accompany us to the massacre site, which rests just across the Idaho border.

Workshop Schedule

Monday, July 30: How Democracy Takes Place

Morning Session

Initial Activity/Ice Breaker

Discussion of Democracy as a Place (Terry Tempest Williams' *The Open Space of Democracy*)

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Campus activity

Writing activity

Tuesday, July 31: Placed Democracy Is Circular and Nonhierarchical

Morning Session

Writing workshop

Discussion of Democracy as Nonhierarchical (Charles Bergman's essay "What I Learned from the Campus Plumber")

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Guest speakers from the community

Writing activity

Wednesday, August 1: Placed Democracy Is Associative

Morning Session

Prewriting activity

Site visit to Logan River Trails with master naturalist

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Discussion of Democracy as Associative (Deborah Miranda's essay "Teaching on Stolen Ground")

Writing activity

Thursday, August 2: Placed Democracy Has Roots In The Past

Morning Session

Discussion of Democracy as Rooted in the Past (Henry David Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience")

All-day site visit to Bear River Massacre Site

Afternoon Session

Reflections on site visit

Friday, August 3: Placed Democracy is Ever Reaching Forward

Morning Session

Discussion of Democracy as Shifting and Mobile (Charles Waugh's essay "Imagined Vietnams")

Guided brainstorming session on lesson plans and classroom applications

Lunch

Afternoon Session

Student presentations

Summary activity

Academic Requirements

Students must attend the complete workshop. Before arriving on campus, they need to have read Terry Tempest Williams' short book, *The Open Space of Democracy*. During the week-long workshop, students will be expected to read additional essays and to write extensively every day. The final project for the course is a 10-12 page personal narrative that brings together the themes of the workshop. Those essays are due Saturday, August 4, by 9:00 am.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

USU A# (if known) _____

Mailing Address (Home) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Have you attended USU before? Yes No Year(s) attended _____

Organization _____

Do you have a college degree _____

Class Rank Undergraduate Graduate

Cancellation/Refund Policy: Written notification of withdrawal must be received by Monday, July 16, 2012 in order to receive a refund of the \$40.00 workshop fee. Students withdrawing from a workshop on or before the first scheduled class will receive a full tuition (\$90) refund. No refund will be made after the first day of class. Disability/Diet: Reasonable accommodations are available for persons with disability: ___ Please check here for additional information. Three working days notice is needed to prepare materials and services. ___ Please check here if you require special dietary considerations (specify need).

Workshop Options (circle appropriate class)	Credits	Tuition	Fees	Total (tuition + fees)
ENGL 5920	3	\$90	\$40	\$130
ENGL 6920	3	\$90	\$40	\$130
TEPD 5560	3	\$90	\$40	\$130
Attending, Non-Credit				\$40

Bennion Workshop
0735 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-0735

Make check payable to
Utah State University.

Total Amount Enclosed	
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To register FOR CREDIT,

1. Submit this form by June 16, with a check or money order.
2. Register in person at the Mountain West Center, Main 339, and pay by cash or check by July 16

Travel Scholarship Application:

Travel Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of lodging / travel while attending the 2012 Bennion Teachers' Workshop. Full tuition is due at registration. Scholarship recipients will be notified of their awards before the start of the workshop. Scholarships will be distributed after credit is completed or at the end of the workshop.

To apply for a travel scholarship, please include with this application a letter detailing your reasons for taking the workshop, the amount of support you are requesting, your anticipated travel expenses, and your financial need.

Mail To: Bennion Workshop
Mountain West Center for Regional Studies
0735 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-0735

Name _____ USU A# (if known) _____

Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ School _____ District _____

Degree(s) _____ Yrs of Teaching Experience _____

Classes Teaching _____ Grade Level Currently Teaching _____

Ione Spencer Bennion (1908-1997)



Ione S. Bennion, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, spent her life seeking justice for all people. She fought for women's rights, minority causes, educational opportunity, and against discrimination. She believed strongly in the democratic governmental system, its ability and duty to correct injustice, and the value of the dissident voice that brings about change. She occupied the position of Dean of Women at Utah State University from 1945 to 1952 and helped create the Women's Center there.

She continued her career as a teacher with Logan School District, spending 28 years teaching the sick and disabled. During the 1950s and 1960s, she worked with the Utah Committee on Civil Rights, the result of which was the Utah Voting Rights Act of 1965. She fought prejudice against the aged; she also showed concern for seniors' quality of life through her support of RSVP/Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Voluntary Action Program. In 1978, Governor Scott Matheson awarded her the Carnation Award recognizing her contributions as a volunteer.

Ms. Bennion passed away November 22, 1997, leaving a legacy of activities that improved the quality of life for all people.