



### Deep Brain Learning®

1 semester hour of undergraduate or graduate credit

Psychology or Special Education 383RY / 583RY

Instructor of Record: Dr. Larry Brendtro

#### Overview

The brain - how it functions and how it is influenced by environmental factors - is a significant area of new learning and understanding that can shape the work of those involved in the lives of children and youth. This course provides a beginning but comprehensive understanding of the core principles of what is known from brain science and how those core principles translate into helpful practice. The book Deep Brain Learning by Larry Brendtro, Martin Mitchell, and Herman McCall, published by Starr Commonwealth, 2009 serves as the primary resource. A Deep Brain Learning Bibliography can be downloaded at [www.reclaiming.com](http://www.reclaiming.com), "college credit".

#### Learning Goals

1. identify principles of evidence-based practice using the standard of consilience: natural science, social science, practice expertise and ethics and values
2. determine how disruptions in the ecology of childhood (i.e. lack of connection, continuity, dignity, and opportunity) lead to specific pain-based behaviors
3. synthesize knowledge from resilience science, cross-cultural research, and practice expertise to specify key factors leading to positive youth development
4. employ principles from neuroscience to provide a fresh perspective on how children cope with challenge and conflict in either adaptive or reactive ways
5. examine evidence from brain science and psychosocial research that indicates universal biosocial needs for attachment, achievement, autonomy, and altruism
6. identify 25 universal truths for creating enduring, positive change and growth in children and youth

#### Topical Outline

- I. Seeking Solutions
  - a. Consilience
  - b. Rules of Evidence
- II. Cultures of Discord
  - a. The ecology of childhood
  - b. Pain-based behavior
  - c. Elder deficit disorder
- III. Cultures of Respect
  - a. The Circle of Courage
  - b. Resilience pioneers
  - c. The resilience revolution
  - d. Core values

- IV. The Brain Rules
  - a. The brain terrain
  - b. The triune brain
  - c. The resilient brain
- V. Resilience Maps
  - a. Trust maps
  - b. Talent maps
  - c. Power maps
  - d. Moral maps
- VI. Core Principles

### **Course Requirements**

Participants who successfully complete these requirements will earn one (1) semester hour of graduate or undergraduate credit, graded with an A-F letter grade. Students may choose to be graded satisfactory or unsatisfactory but must request this in writing. Graduate students must earn a grade of B- or better to receive an S (satisfactory) grade.

### **Undergraduate: 1 semester hour**

Fully participate and complete in-class projects.

### **Graduate: 1 semester hour**

1. **Class participation:** fully participate in all sessions.
2. **Research Paper:** Write a 3-6 page paper (minimum of five references) that explores in greater detail a concept or idea presented in the course.

### **Grading**

All requirements are to be submitted within 30 days of the last day of the course to your instructor. Your instructor will let you know if he or she prefers a hard copy or an electronic copy of your research paper.

**Requesting a grading extension:** If additional time is needed to complete the work, a one-time extension may be requested. Contact your instructor to get permission for an extension. Work will be due no later than the middle of the next semester (March 15, July 15 or October 15). If the work is not submitted by the due date, a grade of F is automatically given.

### **Registration**

Registration occurs during the workshop. Students will complete a registration form indicating a desire for either psychology or special education credit. Payment is due at the time of registration.

### **Cost**

Payment is due at the time of registration. The cost for 1 semester hour of undergraduate or graduate credit is \$150.00 (US dollars). Cash is not accepted. Checks, money orders and credit cards are accepted (except American Express) payable to **Reclaiming Youth International**.

### **Grading and Transcripts**

After final grades are submitted, students will receive a grade report from Augustana College. Official transcripts must be requested in writing by the student to Augustana College Office of the Registrar, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197, or Fax to 605-274-4450.

For questions or concerns, please contact Reclaiming Youth International at [bookstore@reclaiming.com](mailto:bookstore@reclaiming.com) or call 605-647-2532.