

JSC Summer Session 2009

Catalog Listing: ART-4710-J02 Special Topics: Rites of Passage

Course Overview by Instructor: Fran Weinbaum

This course, offered through JSC in the Summer 2009 session, is an investigation of contemporary rites of passage through direct experience in a nature based initiatory experience. It is based on traditional forms of rites of passage and initiation in many traditions and cultures that prepare, support and witness the transitions and role changes throughout life. This course follows the universal stages of a rite of passage: Severance (leaving behind what is familiar); Threshold (three days and nights of solitude/fasting); and Reincorporation (bringing back gifts or insights to the community). Participants are guided in group and individual experiences that encourage inquiry into themselves, their relationships to others, to the natural world and to the broader community and world.

The highly experiential course will require reading, reflective writing, and completion of preparatory tasks *in advance* of 10 days in the Breadloaf Wilderness of Vermont. A final paper in the form of a personal scholarly narrative will be submitted within a month of the experience. Participants will camp for the 10 days (July 16 – 25), preparing meals as a group, taking day hikes into the Breadloaf Wilderness, and enacting a 3 day solo fast. The culmination of the experience will be a celebration with friends and family.

Course Fee: \$200.00 Will cover all expenses during the wilderness experience except travel to Lincoln, Vermont. Participants will provide their own camping gear.

Instructor/Guide: Fran Weinbaum Fran will be assisted by Russell Comstock

Contact for More Information: fran_weinbaum@yahoo.com 802-229-0940

To Register for the Course go to
<http://www.jsc.edu/Academics/Summer/default.aspx>



Fran Weinbaum has been guiding wilderness rites of passage since 1995. She has trained with The School of Lost Borders, Animas Valley Institute, The Institute for Spiritual Development, Earth Island Expeditions (now MettaEarth Institute), the Newfield Network, Passage Works and holds current certification in Wilderness First Aid, CPR and as a NY State Wilderness Guide. Fran is a member of the Wilderness Guides Council and is currently serving on the Advisory Council. Fran is also a Life Coach and Consultant working with individuals, businesses and organizations to support personal and professional transformation. Fran graduated from Newfield Network Coach Training: The Art and Practice of Ontological Coaching (2008) and holds an MA in Therapeutic Recreation (1976) from Michigan State University.



Russell Comstock, Co-Director of Metta Earth Institute, holds an MA in Contemplative and Ecological Leadership and a BA in Human Ecology. A practitioner of yoga for more than twenty years, he is certified in both Interdisciplinary and Jivamukti Yoga. He has trained as a quest and wilderness guide with Earth Rise Foundation, School of Lost Borders, and Outdoor Leadership Training Seminars. He is a licensed New York State Guide and is a nationally certified Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT). Currently Russell is authoring a book called, Metta Earth Yoga - Contemplative Ecological Practices for a Sustainable Future.