

Inside Out Prison Exchange Program: “Life and Its Boundaries”
Professors Ann Green (English) and Elizabeth Linehan (Philosophy)
Saint Joseph’s University



Who: Folks who have recently come home

What: Participate in a philosophy and English course on death and dying with Saint Joe’s students

When: Wednesday afternoons from 12:20-4:25 (From 8/26-12/9, except for 10/28 and 11/25)

Where: By synchronous zoom sessions and online, and possibly on the SJU campus

Why: Upon *successful* completion of the course:

- Earn 3 college credits;
- Enhance leadership skills;
- Engage in dialogue with a diverse community of learners and their professors;
- Develop critical speaking, writing, and reading skills;
- Build skills for successful job interviews and additional education.

How: Talk with John Pace and complete a short application and orientation with the professors.

- Be able to attend at least 10 classes on Wednesday afternoons.
- Have reliable internet access to complete course assignments and engage in dialogue.

Apply now at: <https://forms.gle/7wUzLMPuPwjYNjDCA>



Additional Information on “Inside/Out: Life and Its Boundaries”

Under the lingering threat of the Covid 19 virus, in the fall of 2020, we invite folks who have recently come home to participate in Inside/Out: Life and Its Boundaries. Men and women who have been incarcerated in the recent past will have the opportunity to earn three college credits and engage with traditional college students in discussing philosophical and literary responses to death and dying. To explore the challenges of mass incarceration, we plan to include appearances by other means, including guest speakers and relevant videos.

This course was originally developed to follow the Inside Out pedagogical model: to bring together students from Saint Joseph’s with students from a correctional institution for a fourteen-week intensive dialogue.

The course has been taught inside twice, in spring and fall of 2019, at the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center in Philadelphia. Both professors have taught inside for a number of years, and between them they have 60 plus years of teaching experience.

Topic of the course: Death, dying, and the meaning of life in relation to death.

We will reflect on the variety of forms human death takes: from violent and unexpected death, to state sanctioned death, to “natural” death from illness, or old age, or in a pandemic. Death itself is universal and often out of our control, but its meanings are personal to each of us. Among the questions we will reflect on is how to think about life after death, and how and whether the prospect of continued existence matters now.

Work of the course:

- Readings assigned as homework: a novel, Ernest Gaines’ *Lesson Before Dying*; a course pack including selected philosophical and literary readings, as well as discussions of current ethical issues connected with death and dying;
- Regular attendance during face-to-face or zoom sessions of classes;
- Three or four papers (2-4 pp.) on topics connected with course readings and class discussion (choice of which papers to write);
- Final paper reflecting on the experience of the entire course;
- Participation in a group project with classmates;
- Contributing to in-class conversations through active listening and speaking.

Time commitment: In addition to the time spent in class, approximately the same amount working on assignments (so, about 3 hours outside of class each week).

Additional questions?: Email Dr. Ann Green agreeen@sju.edu or Dr. Eizabeth Linehan elinehan@sju.edu