WHAT IS THE USC PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT?

USC’s Prison Education and Exchange Program creates the opportunity for USC and incarcerated students to learn from each other in a rigorous and collaborative learning environment across a variety of academic disciplines. USC students design, teach, and take classes with inmates of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation System. The program aims to provide both USC and incarcerated students opportunities to think critically about themselves and the systems in which they live. Additionally, the program offers training and seminars to USC faculty who wish to teach within the prison system. **Above all, the Prison Education and Exchange Program seeks to reinforce the idea of education as a fundamental human right and to facilitate connections that transcend walls both literal and figurative.**

For more information please email usclevan@dornsife.usc.edu
WHAT IS THE PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT?

PEP expands educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals in 12 correctional facilities in California.

- 1,000 university student and faculty volunteers
- 6,000 students since 2011

It is the largest prison-based education volunteer program in the US.
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRISON EDUCATION?

- Reduces recidivism by 43% (U.S. DoJ)
- Enhances personal development
- Provides work and housing opportunities for incarcerated individuals post-prison

The goal of the program is to create a “prison-to-school” pipeline.
USC LEVAN INSTITUTE’S PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAM

Our belief is in Liberal Arts education for all. Our belief is in experiential learning. **USC Levan Public Humanities Program** is Co-Directed by Kate Levin and Nik de Dominic

**KATE LEVIN**
A Lecturer in the Writing Program at USC, she also teaches in the SCS Noonan Scholars (formerly South Central Scholars) Summer Academy.

**NIK DE DOMINIC**
Nik de Dominic is a faculty member in the Writing Program at USC. He has taught in with the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Initiative and the Bard Early College Program.

**INSIDE-OUT at USC**

Inside-Out courses bring traditional college students and incarcerated students together in jails and prisons for semester-long learning. We believe that, by studying together and working on issues of crime, justice, and related social concerns, those of us inside and outside of prison can catalyze the kinds of changes that will make our communities more inclusive, just, humane, and socially sustainable.
“We are proud members of a rapidly unfolding network of bridges from corrections to college. Across our nation's higher educational landscape are emerging post-prison education efforts dedicated to developing, implementing and institutionalizing on-campus support services for formerly incarcerated students. Underground Trojans enter USC into the scene.”

- ARIS MANGASARIAN
WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

- Interactive, experiential activities and discussions
- A lead instructor will guide the session, but you lead one-on-one discussions, ask questions, and **encourage critical thinking among students**
- It is ok if you do not have any background in these subjects!
HOW OFTEN WILL I GO?

We will select a volunteer pool from which 4 to 5 volunteers will be assigned for each session, along with a lead instructor.

- There are seven class periods per course.
- As a volunteer, you will attend at least 3 sessions.

Drivers are highly needed and will be reimbursed.
Santa Fe Springs CCTRP Facility - very small, very low-security facility for women. Courses offered:

- Ethics and Big Philosophical Ideas
  - Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 pm (~30 min commute)
- How the Mind Works (TENTATIVE)
  - Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm (~30 min commute)

California Rehabilitation Center - very large, medium security for men. Courses offered:

- Introduction to Literature: Dostoevsky
- Introduction to College Math†

Saturdays 8:30-10:30 am (~45-60 min commute)

†Some background recommended
SAFETY AND APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

In-depth details at Cal Poly orientation

- Do not ask questions about circumstances of incarceration
- Do not ask or answer personal questions
- *Do not share information or stories about students outside of class*
- Wear neutral, appropriate clothing. Stick to the rules outlined in the orientation
- You are not permitted to bring anything other than ID and teaching materials inside facility (no cell phones, no wallets, etc)

Most importantly, be friendly and genuine!
NEXT STEPS

1. Complete online form to sign up.
   - Link at https://dornsife.usc.edu/levan-institute/prison-education-project/

2. Attend mandatory Orientation at Cal Poly Pomona - Sunday, January 27th, 12-5 pm (including travel time)
   - Transportation will be organized

3. Have current TB test prepared to submit by January 27th Orientation
   - Simple and free walk-in test provided at Engemann Health Center
   - Requires two-day interim period - Must be completed by next week!

4. SANTE FE SPRINGS VOLUNTEERS ONLY: Complete LiveScan fingerprint by February 7th
   - Available at the downtown UPS store
   - Subsidy for $25 cost available as needed

5. Class sessions begin the third week of February
   - Don’t worry if you are not familiar with the material you are assigned to teach--we will ensure everyone completes a training process before beginning.
   - Worksheets and instructional guides will be provided for sessions.
QUESTIONS AND CONTACT

PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT

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PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAM

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USC UNDERGROUND TROJANS

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