

Cultural Daily

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To My Students: I Will Not Carry a Gun

Adam Leipzig · Thursday, March 15th, 2018

To My Students:

I will not carry a gun
 because the classroom is a sacred space
 because a gun means danger, not safety
 because a weapon in class conveys hierarchy and authority, which are antithetical to learning
 because the idea of discipline through force is rightist ideology
 forging a worldview that the world is untamed and must be tamed
 and that a gun is how we tame it
 because the fascists of the 20th century were elected, elected, to “make us safe”
 because an atmosphere of danger
 makes people cry “make us safe”
 because I do not partake of the American mythos of the gun

I do carry
 knowledge, interaction, pedagogical tools
 a desire for you to succeed brilliantly
 a portfolio of exercises to address what may come up in the moment
 structure, narrative, object lessons
 group work honed over many semesters
 case study examples
 stories
 data
 responsibility to give you a safe space to learn
 to express yourselves and grow
 responsibility for your learning outcomes
 joy and pride when you thrive and expand

Which is why I will not carry a gun in our class

For people who know me by the films I have produced and this publication, I also teach, or have taught, at UC Berkeley, Chapman, plus seminars and workshops around the world. Teaching is not my vocation, but it is my work.

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