

THE CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC ACTION (CAPA) at  
**BENNINGTON COLLEGE**  
*is proud to offer this new series of online classes for learners at every stage*

**CAPA** • *Building*  
**ONLINE** • *Community*

**BLACK LIVES IN  
 CONTEXT: BRAZIL**

*Kenneth Bailey and  
 Tiago Gualberto*

**COLLABORATIVE  
 WORLDBUILDING:  
 SOCIAL JUSTICE &  
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

*Lauren Ruffin*

**A COMMUNITY HEALTH  
 APPROACH TO SOCIAL  
 EMERGENCIES, AMERICAN  
 RACISM, AND FIREARM  
 INJURY PREVENTION**

*Dr. Christopher Barsotti*

**MASS INCARCERATION,  
 AN AMERICAN  
 INVENTION**

*Vivian Nixon*

**CROSSROADS: RACE,  
 GENDER, AND JUSTICE IN  
 HIGHER EDUCATION**

*Vivian Nixon*

**GOVERNING IN THE  
 TIME OF COVID-19**

*Brian Campion*

**THE REGENERATION  
 GENERATION:  
 REBUILDING THE NATURAL  
 ABUNDANCE OF EARTH**

*Jesse McDougall*

**A WORLD MADE NEW:  
 EXPLORING THE NEXUS  
 BETWEEN CLIMATE  
 CHANGE AND FOOD**

*Edward Cameron*

**SAVE US: STRATEGIC  
 ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENT  
 ENCOUNTERS**

*Susan Sgorbati*

**LIFE SYSTEMS: TOOLS TO  
 HELP YOU WITH QUALITY  
 OF LIFE, LONGEVITY, AND  
 SOCIAL WELLBEING**

*David Thomson*

**THE SUSTAINABILITY OF  
 THE ARTIST: A TOOLKIT  
 FOR DEVELOPING A  
 PRACTICE OF SUPPORT  
 FOR YOUR ART PRACTICE**

*David Thomson*

**BEYOND PLASTIC  
 POLLUTION**

*Judith Enck*

**REGENERATIVE  
 FINANCE: NEW MODELS  
 FOR FINANCE AND  
 INVESTMENT**

*Michael Philipp*

**REGENERATIVE FOOD  
 SYSTEMS: BUILDING  
 INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Kyle Philipp*

CAPA's mission is to respond to the urgent problems of the world, to take action to confront these problems, and to generate solutions for a vision of the future. Each of these 14 classes addresses these problems and offers a way to engage in this important work together.

**REGISTRATION OPENS AUG 3** | *Space is limited* | *Visit our site for full details*

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## **BLACK LIVES IN CONTEXT: BRAZIL**

*Kenneth Bailey and  
Tiago Gualberto*

With the current focus on anti-blackness in the USA, this course will demonstrate a much larger problem. We will show where black populations are within this hemisphere, then quickly focus on black life and struggle in Brazil. We will focus on how anti-blackness is organized in Brazilian life and lifts up forms of black resistance in art, culture, and politics.

**KENNETH BAILEY**'s work focuses on public-making: inviting artists, academics and activists to imagine new public infrastructures, habits, and atmospheres as a strategy for social change.

**TIAGO GUALBERTO** is an Afro-Brazilian visual artist who incorporates themes in his work such as the relationship between memory and history, the social uses of language, and narrative erasure. He maintains a deep interest in the politics of overcoming barriers in Brazil for artists.

**Saturdays | 10 am-1 pm; 2-5 pm | October 17, 24, 31; November 7**

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## **COLLABORATIVE WORLDBUILDING: SOCIAL JUSTICE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

*Lauren Ruffin*

**LAUREN RUFFIN** *is a thinker, designer, and leader interested in building strong, sustainable, anti-racist systems and organizations. She's into exploring how we can leverage new technologies to combat racial and economic injustice.*

Year 2020. The Republic, a fledgling, young country, has left decades of relative prosperity and entered an era marked by poor governance, a world-shaking pandemic, the open persecution of oppressed minority groups, and a ruling class determined to maintain its wealth and power. The first half of this course will deconstruct the foundational social, economic, and governance systems in this fictional world which determine equity and success. The second half of the course will leverage collaborative worldbuilding design principles to begin codifying radical new foundational principles that make social and economic justice easier for all citizens in The Republic to access.

**Mondays | 7-9 pm | September 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9, 16**

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**A COMMUNITY  
HEALTH  
APPROACH  
TO SOCIAL  
EMERGENCIES,  
AMERICAN  
RACISM, AND  
FIREARM INJURY  
PREVENTION**

*Dr. Christopher Barsotti*

This course introduces students to the most prevalent health issues related to the causes of gun violence, and explores the multi-level health strategies that may be developed to prevent and treat gun violence in American society. Students will also gain experience in program design by creating, operationalizing, and evaluating the impact of a novel, narrative-based, educational framework for community outreach that unifies community stakeholders with their health systems, healthcare providers and first responders.

**DR. CHRISTOPHER BARSOTTI MD** *is the founding CEO of the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine (AFFIRM). He is a community practice emergency medicine physician who serves patients in rural western Massachusetts, southern Vermont, and upstate New York, and is a certified 4-H youth rifle instructor.*

**Mondays | 3-4 pm | September 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2**  
**Thursdays | 3-4 pm | September 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

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## **MASS INCARCERATION, AN AMERICAN INVENTION**

*Vivian Nixon*

**VIVIAN NIXON** is a writer and poet. She has been writing about social justice in *Newsmax*, *USA Today*, *New York Times*, *The Hill*, and *San Francisco Bee* and elsewhere since 2004. A Pen America Justice Writing Fellow, Vivian holds an MFA from Columbia University School of

Arts and is Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship. She recently co-edited “*What We Know: Solutions from Our Experiences in the Justice System*” (The New Press).

This course is a primer that serves to lay the backdrop for more specialized studies in American justice systems. It is not a criminology course; it is a cultural exploration of the growth of incarceration in the United States and its peculiar connection to racial identity. With 2 million incarcerated people, the United States has had the highest rate of incarceration for more than 25 years. How did this happen? Why did it happen? What has it changed? Who has been harmed by this phenomenon? Marc Mauer’s seminal volume, *Race to Incarcerate*, has recently been reimaged as a graphic true story. This easy to follow—but extraordinarily thorough—text will be the guide for this introductory course.

**Saturdays**

**September 12 (2-3 pm) | September 19, 26 (2-4 pm) | October 3 (2-5 pm)  
October 10, 17 (2-4:30 pm)**

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## **CROSSROADS: RACE, GENDER, AND JUSTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

*Vivian Nixon*

**VIVIAN NIXON** is a writer and poet. She has been writing about social justice in *Newsmax*, *USA Today*, *New York Times*, *The Hill*, and *San Francisco Bee* and elsewhere since 2004. A Pen America Justice Writing Fellow, Vivian holds an MFA from Columbia University School of

Arts and is Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship. She recently co-edited “What We Know: Solutions from Our Experiences in the Justice System” (The New Press).

This course will examine the factors that create women’s pathways into the criminal legal system and how higher education might act as an intervention at any point along the continuum. How does interaction with the criminal justice system shape future outcomes for women with previously poor educational outcomes? What educational interventions are effective in criminal justice settings? What are the core practices that lead to these women’s success in educational programs, particularly college? What short, mid-range, and long term outcomes are achieved when such opportunities are available?

**Wednesdays | 7-9:30 pm | Sept 16, 23, 30; Oct 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov 4, 11, 18**

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**GOVERNING  
IN THE  
TIME OF  
COVID-19**

*Brian Champion*

Using Vermont as a model, we will focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our citizens and communities at large. We will hear from scientists, policy makers, and healthcare officials who continue to serve on the front lines to keep Vermonters healthy and who are engaged in making decisions and finding opportunities to build a stronger more equitable economy and a more participatory democracy.

**BRIAN CAMPION** *is the director of Public Policy Programs at CAPA, and facilitates all programs and initiatives connected to state and federal policy. He was elected to the Vermont State Senate in 2014 after serving two terms in the Vermont House of Representatives, first elected in 2010 and reelected in 2012. Champion currently serves as the vice chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and is a member of the Senate Finance committee.*

**Mondays | 4-6 pm | September 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19**

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**THE  
REGENERATION  
GENERATION:  
REBUILDING  
THE NATURAL  
ABUNDANCE  
OF EARTH**

*Jesse McDougall*

A movement is growing around the globe to rethink how humans manage the natural resources and natural systems on Earth. Conservation alone is no longer sufficient to save the natural world. Now is the time to begin the regeneration of Earth. This course will: examine the factors and thinking that led us to this perilous point in human history; make a clear assessment of the current environmental situation; and provide practical steps to stop the destruction of the natural world in favor of creating a new, abundant, and resilient world for humans and all other life on Earth.

**JESSE MCDUGALL** *is an author, a Co-Founder and Director of Regenerative Agriculture at Regenerative Food Network, Inc, and farmer at Studio Hill—a regenerative 4th-generation family farm in southwestern Vermont. He is also a holistic management accredited professional and a Savory Institute Hub Leader.*

**Thursdays | 4-6 pm | September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22**

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## **A WORLD MADE NEW: EXPLORING THE NEXUS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD**

*Edward Cameron*

A more equitable, efficient and environmentally-friendly food system is available to us. Innovations in land, value-chain, and risk management—coupled with improvements in finance and public policy—can spur a transition to a low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive food system. Spanning six modules, this course will explore these innovations, analyzing trends and risks in the food system and presenting solutions to drive decarbonization, increase adaptive capacity, encourage economic development, improve food security, enhance equality, and grow employment.

**DR. EDWARD CAMERON** *is a specialist in human rights and climate change. For more than two decades he has advised governments, companies, philanthropies, international organizations and global non-profits on emissions reductions and resilience. In Spring 2020, he authored a book on how to reinvent a low-carbon, resilient and inclusive economy in response to COVID-19.*

**Tuesdays | 11 am-12 pm | September 15, 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20**

**Thursdays | 11 am-12 pm | September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22**

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**SAVE US:  
STRATEGIC  
ALTERNATIVES  
TO VIOLENT  
ENCOUNTERS**

*Susan Sgorbati*

In this class we will read, study, and discuss non-violence as a strategy for social change. We will be introduced to negotiation and mediation skills, and get an understanding of the basics of complex systems. We will read Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Donella Meadows, adrienne maree brown, and Kenneth Bailey. Participants will be asked to create their own strategies for non-violent encounters to make social change and put them into practice.

**SUSAN SGORBATI** *is the director of the Elizabeth Coleman Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA). She is a professional mediator and educator whose creative research has led to collaboration across disciplines ranging from dance improvisation to biology to visual arts, as both an artist and a driver of social change.*

**Wednesdays | 12-2 pm | September 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21**

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## **LIFE SYSTEMS: TOOLS TO HELP YOU WITH QUALITY OF LIFE, LONGEVITY, AND SOCIAL WELLBEING**

*David Thomson*

How do we create a life that is informed and responsive to building long-term personal sustainability? The goal of this course is to offer a groundwork of skills, tools, resources, and ways of thinking that will empower and strengthen one's ability to develop personal stability and envision longevity on a personal and professional basis. Topics covered include: financial literacy, taxes, health-care & wellness, conflict negotiation, housing & homeownership, legacy, and personal practices.

**DAVID THOMSON** *is an interdisciplinary artist working in the fields of music, dance, theater, and performance. He initiated The Sustainability Project as a platform for research to create and expand resources and the discourse surrounding ideas of financial, artistic, and personal empowerment in the performing arts community.*

**Saturdays | 10 am-1 pm | September 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24**

*Small group discussions will be held from 2-4 pm on four of the above Saturdays, dates TBD*

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## **THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ARTIST: A TOOLKIT FOR DEVELOPING A PRACTICE OF SUPPORT FOR YOUR ART PRACTICE**

*David Thomson*

This is an intensive course offering philosophies, resources, and best practices to develop language and strategies to apply for funding. Inherent in this process are questions on how we define ourselves and the work we are creating. We will read and draw on the work of Andrew Simonet's *Making Your Life as an Artist*. In this hands-on course, we will cover artist statements, project descriptions, budgets, fiscal sponsorship, fundraising, grants, and residencies. The course will culminate in the development of a full grant proposal and review process. You will leave with the knowledge of how to consider supporting your own work and develop your voice as an artist. This course is for artists who have already established a personal practice and are interested in developing further into the professional field.

**DAVID THOMSON** *is an interdisciplinary artist working in the fields of music, dance, theater, and performance. He initiated The Sustainability Project as a platform for research to create and expand resources and the discourse surrounding ideas of financial, artistic, and personal empowerment in the performing arts community.*

Saturdays | 10 am - 1 pm | October 31; November 7, 14, 21

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## **BEYOND PLASTIC POLLUTION**

*Judith Enck*

**JUDITH ENCK** is a Visiting Professor at Bennington College and Senior Fellow at the College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA). She has a long and distinguished career in government and in the non profit community on a

range of environmental protection issues. She was appointed by President Obama to serve as Regional Administrator at the US Environmental Protection Agency and served as Deputy Secretary for the Environment in the New York Governor's Office. She is the founder and President of Beyond Plastics, a national project with the goal of eliminating plastic pollution everywhere.

Beyond Plastic Pollution is an environmental policy course that focuses on the systemic reasons on why over 9 million metric tons of plastics enter the ocean each year. This cutting-edge class will focus on how plastic pollution is a climate change issue; how the plastics industry spins the myth that we can recycle our way out of the problem; environmental justice and the health impacts of plastic production and use; alternatives to plastic; and most importantly, what you can do to address this growing problem. This will be a particularly useful class for those who want to tackle this issue in their own community, state, and nation. There will be a strong focus on public action.

**Thursdays | 7-9 pm | September 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22**

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**REGENERATIVE  
FINANCE:  
NEW  
MODELS FOR  
FINANCE AND  
INVESTMENT**

*Michael Philipp*

A movement is growing around the globe to rethink the role of finance and investment in society. This course will give an overview of the economic landscape, including the various actors that make up the system, and introduce the terms and concepts necessary to understand and operate within the system. The course will highlight some new models including Regenerative Economics, Doughnut Economics, Impact Investment, and Blended Finance, and will take students through the process of applying these methods through project finance.

**MICHAEL PHILIPP** is Chairman of Ambata Capital, a family owned investment firm that believes businesses should act as a positive force for change in the communities, industries, and environments in which they operate. Michael has 25 years of experience in the global financial services industry. He is also Chairman of Regenerative Food Networks, Inc and Co-Chair of the Bhutan Foundation.

**Tuesdays** | 4-5:30 pm | **September 15, 22, 29; October 6**

**Wednesdays** | 4-5:30 pm | **September 16, 23, 30; October 7** \*last class will also meet at 6-7 pm

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**REGENERATIVE  
FOOD SYSTEMS:  
BUILDING  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Kyle Philipp*

This course will give an overview of the food system today and show the ways regenerative thinking can be applied to reinvigorate local food systems. We will look at replacing our current food system with a network of decentralized local food systems that provide economic benefits to the community, healthy food for the region, and climate resilience for the planet. This course will benefit anyone looking to take an active role in social justice, food justice, regenerative agriculture, food system development, and combating climate change.

**KYLE PHILIPP** is the CEO of Regenerative Food Network, Inc. He has more than 20 years of experience working with innovative companies in the finance, energy, and technology sectors. His focus has been working across disciplines to implement holistic solutions and pushing businesses to be a positive force for change for their employees, communities, and the environment.

**Tuesdays | 4-5:30 pm | October 20, 27; November 3, 10**

**Wednesdays | 4-5:30 pm | October 21, 28; November 4, 11** \*last class will also meet at 6-7 pm

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