

WORKSHOPS ON WHEELS

Conflict Resolution Skills, Counseling, Silk Road Travel and Self-Defense

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To: School Administrators

An Invitation to coordinate
some valuable English
language workshops



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Esteemed Colleagues,

I've been lucky to have had an interesting series of careers in my life ranging from preschool teacher and stone mason, to counselor, family therapist, reporter, journalist and university lecturer. My CV is attached.

I've been semi-retired here in Beijing for the past two of years and would like something different. One thing I enjoyed doing as a teacher was leading interactive small groups (5 – 20 students or teachers) in learning:

1) conflict resolution strategy skills, 2) counseling skills 3) Silk Road travel strategies and 4) self-defense/martial arts - in English (my Chinese language is basic but helpful here in China at least).

If you look at my CV you will see I am qualified in these fields.

I will be visiting Phuket in a couple of weeks and have thought of staying there for a while if I can find employment with an educational institution that is willing and legally permitted to provide off-site training programs, like 90-minute workshops on the above topic areas. They really are fun as I've done them many times before in Beijing and South Korea.

These short workshops can be done at schools, universities, civic organization as well as at family homes and block parties. I can also do things like teach regular English classes in addition to a number of other subject areas.

Best Regards,

Gregory Brundage

Notes

COVID-19 is still an issue. I have lived in Beijing for the past 12 years and have not left China in the past year and a half. I have a smart phone with the Chinese “contact tracing” APP. I received two Sinovac-CoronaVac vaccine injections (April & May 2021) and several antibody tests. All is recorded on my Huawei mobile APPS.

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When I worked in South Korea (2001-2009) my university (2005-2009) “leased” me out to the Korean military HQ (at Gyeryongdae) to give English classes to the officers’ wives at lunch hour and the officers in the evenings.

Perhaps you can see if your provincial government will permit us to provide 60 - 90-minute workshops at public schools? All four topic areas mentioned in the letter above teach easy, useful and ethical life-skills. Perhaps we can do one of the four topics listed in the letter above, every month at each of several schools? I think they will be popular. **Or perhaps we can do them virtually via the internet.** Either way, these workshops are valuable learning for everyone and potentially good business for your school.

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SUMMARIES

FIVE MOST COMMON STRATEGIES PEOPLE USE TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT:

Strategy -策略 [cè lüè] way of doing something – plan - approach

Avoidance (noun) Avoid (verb) – hide from, run away from a problem, 回避 huí bì = Deny (v.) there is a problem. (denial - noun.)

Confrontation (= competing) (noun) Confront (verb) – attack back, fight 对抗 duì kàng

Accommodation (noun) Accommodate (verb) 姑息 gū xī = Give them what they want. = Appeasement 姑息 gū xī = Yielding 屈服 Qū fu = Surrender 投降 tóu xiáng

Compromise (Noun and verb) 妥协 tuǒ xié = A 50/50 solution - you get half, I get half

Collaboration (Problem Solving) 解决问题 jiějué wèntí – figure out solutions to the problem behind the problem. (Figure out solutions: 找出解决方案)

Source: Conflict Resolution Skills - University of California, Irvine via Coursera

<https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/verify/8LRTRMDGW83B>

COUNSELING MODEL QUESTIONS

1. What's the matter?
2. How do you feel about that?
3. Is this the first time this has happened to you? [or, "When did it start?"]
4. What do you think you should do?
5. Do you have any other ideas?
6. Do you have friends or family you can talk to? (If "no" counselor says, "you can always come and talk with me.")
7. What is the best thing for you to do now?

Source: A Counseling class at University of Wisconsin – Madison

The sample "counseling problems" we use in this workshop are humorous and should not bother anyone. But they do give participants some real challenges just the same.

SILK ROADS TRAVEL STRATEGIES

Not many young people know much about the wonders of these ancient and modern Silk Road Countries.

Thus far I have published 36 articles in a California based magazine and four books about my adventures along the Silk Roads.

I made an amateur (amusing) 20-minute video about my five-year – 16 countries: **Silk Road Kung Fu Friendship Tour**. The text is in Chinese, but the music is American and the photos tell most of the story.

<https://videopress.com/v/clombTcv>

So many young people complain: "I can't get a job." In fact, educated people can usually get a job in many countries, if they speak at least two languages.

The objective of this workshop is to get participants to think about their own hobbies, interests and professional aspirations and start to think how their skills can be useful to helping lift the entire land and maritime Silk Roads into the modern world. Likewise, working in foreign countries is good for the mind and good for the people in those countries. Travel is the best education.

Self Defense/Martial Arts/Yoga

First, I am no master. However, I have had a long series of very excellent martial art teachers in many countries during the past 50+ years. I have black belts in Karate and Taekwondo, and 50 years of training in all styles of Kung Fu. I've trained with many local and national martial arts teams in Silk Road countries, North and South America and Africa. I teach a very slow

and easy stretching routine to start. Then a few easy kicks and punches. It's a fun challenge for people of all ages. This work-fun-shop will be a fun break from the usual routine of life for all participants.



Me leading a group of about 30 Wushu students in Addis Ababa, 2019

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Please let me know if your school is legally permitted to, and might like to be involved in projects as described above. I should arrive in Phuket on or about the 28th of September on a tourist visa, but would like to change that to a work visa. If you write back to me and make me an offer, I will make a hotel reservation closer to your school.

In any case, I am looking for a teaching job on Phuket Island and hope you consider my CV as application for a regular teaching position at your school as well. Thank you for your consideration.

- G. Brundage

<https://heartpublications.org/workshops>

<https://www.silkroadresearchcenter.org>

<https://www.fightingartsasia.com>

<https://gregsefl.weebly.com>