

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## 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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