ARTS&SCI/ISCI 3IE1: Interdisciplinary Experiences: Kentucky Caving Trip

This is a four-day fieldtrip to Cave City, Kentucky (October 18 – 21\textsuperscript{th}, 2013) to explore karstic geomorphology, perform underground biological inventories, discuss the rich local caving history, and consider the environmental issues caused by mismanagement of these natural features. Students will have the opportunity to explore several cave systems within the region including the world's largest known cave system and a 'Wild Cave' tour that will allow students to experience caving with only a guide and a headlamp. Student evaluation will be based upon a pre-trip assignment to be presented to the class during the trip, course participation, a post-course reflection and participation in the post-trip meeting.

An initial information session for the trip will occur on Thursday September 26th at 5:30pm in Lyons New Media classroom on the fourth floor of Mills Library. At this time details such as packing lists and a detailed itinerary will be shared.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to explore the unique environment of Kentucky. If you have any further questions please contact Dr. John MacLachlan at maclajc@mcmaster.ca, the Course Co-instructor with Dr. Chad Harvey.

Course deliverables
This class will have three components all graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass all four components to pass the course.

1. Students must prepare a one page, double sided handout on a topic related to the theme of the trip, to be presented via a 10-15 minute oral presentation during the course of the trip. Presentations will occur in a setting to complement the topic. For example, a presentation on the importance of Floyd Collins will be given at the Floyd Collins Museum, or a discussion on the unique geologic and geomorphologic factors leading to the formation of the Mammoth Caves will occur at the mouth of the caves. A sufficient number of handouts must be brought for all course participants.

2. Participation during the trip (appropriate behaviour, engagement in discussions, etc.)

3. A reflection piece outlining the value of the experiences gained as a result of the trip (with permission of the instructor, this reflection piece may take the form of a podcast, video or annotated photo journal). This must be submitted to the instructor by November 22nd.

4. An informal discussion session on what was learned on the trip and the experiences taken from it. The date for this session will be discussed with the class but it should take place within two weeks of the return date.

Logistical Details

Dates: Leave October 18th at approximately 8:00am, return October 21st at approximately 8:00pm. The return time is an estimation; issues with traffic and delays at the border are out of our control.

Trip Cost: The total trip cost is $350.00 which includes transportation, accommodations and all park entrance fees. A deposit of $100 is due by October 12\textsuperscript{th} at 3pm and is to be paid to McMaster University via cheque or bank draft. Deposits should be delivered with the accompanying application form (see below) to the Course Coordinator, Sarah Robinson, H.G. Thode Library, Room 308.

All participants must have a valid passport for travel to the U.S.A. Proof of a valid passport must be shown when submitting the course application form.