Interdisciplinary Experiences (3IE1/2/3)

Fall 2012 Modules

Kentucky Caving Fieldtrip (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructor: John Maclachlan

This is a four-day fieldtrip (Friday through Monday, 16-19 Nov. 2012) to visit karstic geomorphology features, investigate their form and origin, and consider the environmental issues caused by mismanagement of these natural features. Students will be required to complete a pre-trip quiz and will be evaluated on the basis of participation and a field notebook.

Enrolment Limit: 20 students

Student Spelunkers Trade Class Work for Caving
From McMaster Daily News, 12 December 2012

“Celebrated cave explorer Floyd Collins became trapped in a narrow underground passageway while searching for a new entrance to Kentucky’s popular Mammoth Caves in 1925.”
Read more...

Winter 2013 Modules

Aboriginal Fieldtrip (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructor: Sarah Glen

This module will take students to Six Nations to learn traditional Ojibwa culture, values, and beliefs in relation to the natural environment. The fieldtrip will consist of two full-day workshops, Sat.-Sun. 9-10 Mar., guided by Aboriginal knowledge keepers Mark and Wendy Phillips and Aboriginal community leader Josh Dockstator. Students will explore the natural environment, take part in a sunrise ceremony, learn to build a sweat lodge, and have the option of taking part in the sweat ceremony. Participants will be required to meet Fri. 8 Mar. on campus to discuss the assignments, explore expectations, and meet Josh, Wendy and Mark. Requirements include three readings in advance of the excursion, a series of reflective exercises throughout the fieldtrip, as well as a short reflective essay once the fieldtrip is over. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation and their written work.

Enrolment Limit: 15 students

Living With Our Land
From McMaster Daily News, 21 March 2013

“Earlier this month, a team of McMaster students traveled to Six Nations in Ohsweken, Ontario to learn more about Aboriginal
culture, values and beliefs in relation to the natural environment in Southern Ontario.”

Read more...

**Egyptian Hieroglyphs (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)**

**Instructor:** Sarah Symons

This module is an introduction to the script used by ancient Egyptians to decorate temples, tombs, and artefacts. Participants will learn principles of reading and translation via a combination of worksheets, exercises, and object studies. The objects are drawn from museum collections around the world and offer insight not only into the language but also into the culture of ancient Egypt.

The module will run in January and early February with four two-hour evening workshops and some out-of-class study. The module will end with a Saturday visit to the Royal Ontario Museum to view the Egyptian collection and try out newly-acquired reading skills. For more information, contact the instructor, Dr. Sarah Symons, symonss@mcmaster.ca.

**Enrolment Limit:** 20 students

**Leadership & Mentorship (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)**

**Instructor:** Sarah Robinson

Students will participate in five two-hour sessions (January-March) with some additional preparation to develop strategies that will optimize leadership and mentorship skills. Those enrolled will be given the opportunity to practice these skills in a small, low-risk setting, and actively participate as a Student Leader in all workshop sessions within the iSci/Arts & Science Leadership Program. Active participation, preparation of workshop materials, and reflection pieces will be required.

**Enrolment Limit:** 10 students

**Grant Writing (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)**

**Instructor:** Chad Harvey

This module develops the interdisciplinary skills of researching and writing an application for grant funding. It is an independent project, with students working on their own or in pairs, under the supervision of the instructor and in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability. Timeline will vary according to particular grant deadlines. Students will achieve the entire grant-writing experience: researching potential funding sources to support a chosen initiative on campus; scripting an appropriate background, purpose, budget and timeline; writing and submitting the completed grant application.

**Enrolment Limit:** 8 students