Interdisciplinary Experiences (3IE1/2/3)

Fall 2013 Modules

**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 later Sept. and Oct. 2013 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.

**Enrolment Limit:** 20 students

**Module Information**

**Kentucky Caving Fieldtrip (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)**

**Instructors:** John Maclachlan and Chad Harvey

This is a five-day fieldtrip to Cave City, Kentucky (18-21 Oct. 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. Among the caves visited will be the Hidden River Cave System, Cub Run Cave and an extensive tour of the largest cave system in the world, Mammoth Cave. Student evaluation will be based upon a pre-trip assignment, course participation, and a post-course reflection.

**Enrolment Limit:** 18 students

**Module Information**

**Grant Writing: Integrating Science, Sustainability and Community (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)**

**Instructor:** Chad Harvey

The ability to research, write and apply for grant funding is a skill that is truly interdisciplinary. Whether an individual is pursuing a career in academics, government, or private industry, proficiency in grant writing is necessary and a highly marketable asset. Students will experience the entire grant writing process, from research of potential funding sources; scripting an appropriate background, purpose, budget and timeline; to writing and submission of the finished grant application.

Grants will be sought to support and maintain community outreach initiatives here at McMaster. Examples of these initiatives include the McMaster Teaching & Community
Garden (MTCG), McMaster Outdoor Learning Space (MOLS), McMaster Eco-Lab (MEL), and McMarsh, a reclamation project for Lot M.

Enrolment Limit: 8 students

Module Information

Winter 2014 Modules

Electronics for the Rest of Us! (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructors: Dale Askey and Jason Brodeur

To most of us, the workings of the electronic devices that accompany (and enable!) our everyday lives often seem mysterious and opaque, an area of concern for only the most qualified “techies.” Though a basic understanding of electronics and programming is generally viewed as a core competency for 21st century success, these topics remain intimidating, as they often appear inaccessible to many students from non-technical disciplines. This doesn’t have to be the case. The development and widespread availability of inexpensive, user-friendly and well-documented electronics — such as the Arduino — has made learning and developing these skills accessible (and dare we say, even fun) for students of every age. Such resources now make it possible for even the most inexperienced student to create with electronics, while simultaneously reaping the educational benefits associated with the application of logic and rules to make cool stuff.

Over the span of 5 classes and open access to equipment and documentation, students will be introduced to the world of simple electronics and programming, and will have an opportunity to develop their skills by designing and building an electronic device of choice.

Enrolment Limit: 20 students

Module Information

Information and Media Literacy (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructors: John Maclachlan and Rhonda Moore

This one-unit module will offer students an opportunity to learn (current) new media skills such as graphic design, web production, video production, and social media engagement, with a strong focus on media and information literacy. The module will be structured to include 5 two-hour workshops, as well as “Mini New Media Assignments” to be completed outside tutorial and submitted before the next workshop. In addition to this, there will be a large, self-directed group assignment that will incorporate building new media for various areas in the city of Hamilton.

Enrolment Limit: 12 students

Module Information

A Celebration of Winter as Place (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructors: Bob Henderson and Patrick Byrne
Winter is the misunderstood season. We will explore winter as a fundamental expression of Canadian identity through the lenses of history, geography, and literature. While travelling by snowshoes and skis, and of course sitting around the fire, we will examine key stories and characters in our Canadian understanding of winter, including Franklin, wendigos, Sam Magee, and Grey Owl. This exploration will also include the “idea of North” and the Norwegian friluftsliv approach to winter outdoor life. The central goal is to embrace the winter season as a “place” in our personal psyche and Canadian consciousness.

To do this we must be active in a thriving winter place where we are engaged in winter chores of chopping wood for our fires, drawing water from our ice hole, and clearing roofs of burdensome snow. We will learn the key winter activities of snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, building a snow shelter (Quinzee) and setting up a wall tent wood stove camp. This course will take place in Algonquin Park during the weekend of Friday 17 January - Sunday 19 January 2014.

**Enrolment Limit:** 15 students

**Module Information**

### Further Egyptian Hieroglyphs (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

**Instructor:** Sarah Symons

This course of four two-hour workshops builds on the previous ARTSSCI 3IE1 “Egyptian Hieroglyphs” module, with an emphasis on learning more about the structure of the language (“Middle Egyptian”) behind the hieroglyphic script. The format will be similar, and involves learning through worksheets and discussion.

*Prerequisite:* A pass in ARTSSCI 3IE1 “Egyptian Hieroglyphs.” (Students must be up-to-date with concepts from this course.)

**Enrolment Limit:** 20 students

**Module Information**

### Leadership & Mentorship Module (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

**Instructor:** Sarah Robinson

Students will participate in five two-hour sessions (January-March 2014) 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

**Module Information**