Interdisciplinary Experiences (3IE1/2/3)

Fall 2016 Modules

Urban Placemaking (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructors: Jackie Brown and Rosalind Pfaff

This module will explore the concept of urban placemaking, a collaborative process of animating public and private spaces to strengthen the social and cultural fabric of a city. We will delve into the use of arts-based practices, environmental resources, social enterprise, and civic engagement tools to reimagine underutilized properties. In addition, we will examine why placemaking projects are often guided by the principles of adaptive reuse, such as sustainable development and heritage preservation.

This is an experiential, place-based course. We will be exploring urban placemaking initiatives around the world, such as the Dorchester Projects in Chicago, the High Line in New York City, and the converted Tempelhof Airport in Berlin. We will visit examples of such projects in Toronto, including Artscape Youngplace, a community cultural hub housed in the former Shaw Street School. Using these spaces as case studies, students will participate in facilitated discussions about the challenges associated with ensuring that they are community-driven, adaptable, vibrant, and inclusive. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct independent research on a placemaking project of their choosing.

Please note that there is an additional $15 fee for this module and students will be responsible to cover their own travel costs associated with participating in the module (e.g. GO Transit and TTC passes).

Module Schedule:
22 October 2016 10am-5:30pm (Toronto)
23 October 2016 10am-4pm (Hamilton)
27 October 2016 7-9pm (Hamilton)

Enrolment Limit: 16 students
Application Deadline: 9 September 2016 at 1pm

The Forge @ Mac: Student Entrepreneurship Explorations (ARTSSCI/ISCI 3IE1)

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Boulanger, The Forge Business Development Manager

This one-unit module will introduce students to The Forge @ Mac. The Forge is Hamilton’s startup incubator and McMaster University’s on-campus entrepreneurship initiative (The Forge@Mac). The Forge supports new tech companies and students interested in entrepreneurship by providing co-working space across two locations (at McMaster Innovation Park and in downtown Hamilton), training, resources and a network of alumni and mentors. Students will be required to attend 8 of 12 workshops running September 2016 – March 2017 and complete a culminating reflection about their experiences in order to successfully complete this module. Students are welcome
to attend more seminars/workshops as they are interested. Students are also invited to participate in the Student Pitch and culminating Student Startup Competition.

Course Outline

Enrolment Limit: 15 students
Application Deadline: 14 September 2016 at 12pm

Winter 2017 Modules

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 Forest, and McMarsh, a reclamation project for Parking Lot M. Other project ideas can be discussed with the Instructor as potential options for grant funding.

A weekly meeting time will be determined that works for everyone’s schedule once Term starts. This meeting time will be used to discuss various aspects and purposes of writing a grant and to keep tabs on progress throughout the process. Meetings will be informal and collaborative.

Enrolment Limit: 8 students
Application Deadline: 9 September 2016 at 1pm

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

Instructors: Dale Askey, Jason Brodeur, John Fink and Matt McCallow

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 backgrounds. This doesn’t need 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.
**Module Schedule:**
26 January 2017 7-9pm (SCDS, Mills Library)
27 January 2017 5-9pm (ThInK Space, Thode Library)
28 January 2017 10am-4pm (SCDS, Mills Library)

**Enrolment Limit:** 15 students
**Application Deadline:** 7 December 2016 at 1pm

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

**Instructors:** Patrick Byrne and Bob Henderson

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 (Quinzeez) and setting up a wall tent wood stove camp.

Please note that there is a $200 trip fee to cover accommodations, transportation, and equipment rentals.

**Module Schedule:**
17-20 February 2017 (Algonquin Park)

**Enrolment Limit:** 10 students
**Application Deadline:** 9 September 2016 at 1pm

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

**Instructors:** John Maclachlan and Chad Harvey

This is a four-day fieldtrip to Cave City, Kentucky (23-26 February 2017) 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.

Please note that there is a $350 trip fee to cover accommodations, transportation, and park entrance fees. A $100 deposit is due upon application submission. All participants must have a valid passport for travel to the U.S.A. Proof of valid passport must also be submitted with the application.
Module Schedule:
23-26 February 2017 (Cave City, Kentucky)

Application Deadline: 7 December 2016 at 1:00pm