ISCI 3IS3: Interdisciplinary Sciences Field Camp
Spring 2014

Instructors: Dr. Carolyn Eyles, Dr. John Maclachlan, Dr. Chad Harvey

Location: Iceland

Formal meetings: May 1 - 11 (more detail below)

Cost: $1300
(payable to McMaster University; $250 by February 14; balance by March 1)

Includes:
- Transportation to field sites from Reykjavik
- Accommodation
- Some meals

Excludes: Tuition at McMaster University for ISCI 3IS3. Also excludes flights to & from Iceland as well as Super Jeep trip to the top of Eyjafjallajökull and any additional optional touring that may be done in Reykjavik.

Course Description: An interdisciplinary field camp experience to introduce students to field investigations, equipment and methodologies used by a range of professionals including ecologists, earth and environmental scientists. Most of this course occurs outside the regular academic term, usually within the two weeks following the end of term in April or within the two weeks preceding the start of term in September; details and applications are available in December.

Course Overview: Iceland (the ‘land of ice and fire’) is the scene of some very active geology where the North American and European plates are separating (‘sea floor spreading’) along the North Atlantic Mid-Ocean Ridge (MOR). On this trip, we will be guided by Kristinn Guðjónsson who knows the geology, ecology and people of Iceland extremely well (seemingly being related to everyone there). We will visit the west central and southern part of the island paying particular attention to the plate boundary along the MOR where it comes up on land, the central rift valley of the MOR at Thingvellir, recently active volcanoes such as Eyjafjallajökull and enormous lava flows (the largest anywhere in the world in the last 10,000 years), ‘dormant’ but potentially devastating volcanoes such as Katla, Europe’s largest ice cap (Vatnajökull), large glacial lakes, hot springs and geysers. It is likely we will go for one day to the Vestmannaeyjar Islands. We will visit biologically unique environments and sites for geothermal energy generation and research. If you are interested in wildlife be sure to bring binoculars.
Draft ITINERARY (subject to change)

Day 1: May 1 (Thursday): arrival at Keflavík Airport. Reykjanes Peninsula.
Accom. Reykjavík City Hostel

Day 2: May 2 (Friday): Rauðhólar ‘rootless craters’, Raufarhólshellir lava tube
(Gjábkakkahellir), Selfoss, Lake Þingvallavatn, Þingvellir, Geysir hot spring area, Gullfoss
Accom. Skogar hostel (an old school).

Day 3: May 3 (Saturday): Vestmannaeyjar Islands
Accom. Skogar hostel.

Day 4: May 4 (Sunday): Eyjafjallajökull volcano
Accom.: Skogar hostel

Day 5: May 5 (Monday): Eyjafjöll-Skaftafell
Accom.: Hotel Hrollaugstaður

Day 6: May 6 (Tuesday): Breiðamerkurjökull.
Accom.: Hotel Hrollaugstaður

Day 7: May 7 (Wednesday): Skaftafell
Accom.: Hotel Hrollaugstaður

Day 8: May 8 (Thursday) Skaftafell - Reykjavík.
Accom.: Reykjavik City Hostel

Day 9: May 9 (Friday): Reykjavik: Group project work
Accom.: Reykjavik City Hostel

Day 10: May 10 (Saturday): Reykjavik: Project presentations and oral exam
Accom.: Reykjavik City Hostel

Day 11: May 11 (Sunday) Final Day: Blue Lagoon Hot Springs, Keflavík Airport.

This is a draft outline of the itinerary – this may change according to availability of services, accommodation and weather. A final itinerary will be issued prior to the start of the field camp.

Grading scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group project in Reykjavik</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of talk in the field (in pairs)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of field notebook</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation during the field trip</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A final oral exam in Reykjavik</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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Important Information:

1. **Academic dishonesty.** You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.
It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group-work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

The following are some pitfalls experienced by previous students:
- If you use any information from the internet, verbatim or paraphrased, and you do not acknowledge the source, then you have plagiarized.
- If you work with a classmate and have an identical written answer (i.e. sentences or phrases have the identical wording or phrasing), then you have plagiarized.
- If you copy a photograph or a graph from the internet and do not acknowledge the source, you have plagiarized.

If you are found to have committed plagiarism, you will automatically receive a grade of zero for the given assignment. There will not be any exceptions to this rule.

2. The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.