



2016-17

**Experience-Centered Seminars
Course Information**

**Placement Criteria
Seminar Descriptions**

Placement Criteria

Placement in ECSs are assigned according to the following criteria:

- Grade Level
- Enrollment Contract Return Date
- Preference Ranking of Previous ECS Placements
- Gender Ratios and Course Roster Caps

In the event of a tiebreaker, the following criteria may be taken into consideration:

- Demonstrated Career or Life Interest
- Educational Sensibilities
- Behavioral and Social Indicators

Before submitting the ECS Preference Form (due Monday, May 9), please note the following points.

1. Distant and costly ECSs are usually not academically or developmentally appropriate for freshmen. CSS values the opportunity for underclassmen to get their feet wet on a local or regional seminar. Also, students tend to appreciate ECS experiences more when they help pay for them. Using a summer or two to earn part of the cost is usually wise.
2. Consider ECS preference rankings carefully and thoughtfully to *avoid making changes later*. In most cases, reservations for transportation and housing happen very early in the process and changes are difficult, and sometimes impossible, to make. Deposits are not refundable once reservations are paid for so changes made to rosters may be costly.
3. Students are encouraged to rank seminars based on individual interests and/or career ambitions, not according to social influences. Course descriptions now include a feature titled “Student interests that match this ECS”, which is intended to orient students to the themes and topics that each ECS will explore. Friendships made with new acquaintances on an ECS are often extremely rewarding. Hanging with old buddies is usually not the most productive approach to an ECS!
4. Costs are close approximations and could change slightly.
5. Students who have demonstrated behavioral problems at school may not be sent on national or international seminars. It may not be possible to reimburse families for costs incurred if a change in seminars must be made due to a disciplinary issue.
6. Independent ECSs are generally discouraged, but are allowed and even encouraged on rare occasions. It is very difficult for most students to organize and execute a suitably academic seminar course, and some aspects of the program are usually lost (especially cooperative learning, team-building, and person growth). In order to ensure academic rigor, a student must fill out a 5-page form that includes work with the Director of Student Programs, the advisor, an in-house faculty sponsor, and an academic supervisor (teacher) at the site of the ECS. Paperwork must be in place and arrangements made between the out-of-house sponsor and the in-house sponsor by November 1. Students should still submit a Preference Form for the existing ECSs in case of a failed effort at designing an independent ECS.

Bonaire Scuba

A story of physical and biological evolution

Unique in our solar system, there is nothing like Earth's oceans. The origin, evolution, and physical properties of Earth's oceans are a defining influence on the biological evolution of life on Earth. The oceans remain home to an incredibly diverse web of life, intricately connected to our planet's well-being. This course will examine these topics through an underwater exploration of the ocean surrounding Bonaire, one of Earth's great diving environments. Every student will complete an open water diver course and receive lifelong scuba certification. In addition, students will engage in scientific data collection and a local service project on Bonaire. The culmination of our studies will be a multimedia project covering the story of the physical and biological evolution of Bonaire and its immediate surroundings.

Instructors: Greg Johnson, Anne Taylor

Limit: 16 students

Cost: \$3800 - \$3950

Dates of Travel: Late evening March 11- Late evening March 21, 2017

Student interests that match this ECS:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Marine ecology and ecosystems
- Ocean exploration

Student Prerequisites:

- Must be able to equalize ears underwater at a depth greater than 10 feet. It is a very good idea to visit a pool before signing up for this ECS; the scuba experience is not enjoyable if ears cannot equalize. Speak to Mr. Greg Johnson for more information.
- Adequate swimming skills - PADI open water diver certification requires:
 - You will demonstrate that you can float or tread water without aids for 10 minutes
 - You will swim 200 yards with no aids, or 300 yards with mask, fins, and snorkel
- A physical exam specifically for SCUBA, which should be completed over the summer at the same time as the annual student physical required by CSS
- Vaccines and medications:
 - Routine vaccinations - be up-to-date on all vaccines including measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and yearly flu shot.
 - Hepatitis A and Typhoid vaccines are [recommended by the CDC](#) but not required.
- **A passport valid through 10/31/2017**

Special Note: Open Water SCUBA certification courses must be taken prior to the start of the ECS. Students must be willing to attend two full days of training, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., on Sunday, August 21 and Sunday, August 28 or to complete courses on personal time. In addition, plan to attend a required viewing of a SCUBA training DVD at a time to be determined during the week of August 14-21. Students who are unable to show proof of certification by January 3, 2017, will lose their place on the ECS.

Expédition Quebec

Prepare yourself for a true immersion into the language and culture of French-speaking Canada. This exciting ECS will come to understand “Canadian national identity” as a term that embodies the language, history, natural environment and geography, traditional crafts, cuisine, and social elements that are representative of Canada. Students will learn and practice the French language through a wide variety of hands-on experiences as they explore the cosmopolitan city of Montreal, the history-soaked walled city of Old-Quebec, and the dramatic gulf of the St. Lawrence River in Gaspé Bay. During the first week in-country, language instruction will occur daily with local Quebecois teachers in order to expose students to French vocabulary that will be relevant to the day’s excursions. History, culture, and geography will come alive as students participate in an overnight dogsled adventure that will retrace the routes of early explorers, and snowshoe through the famous Plains of Abraham where the French lost Canada to the English in 1756. This ECS will include a one-week home stay experience in the province, which will further orient students to regional francophonie accents, cadence, and slang. Finally, students will gain intensive service experience by working shoulder to shoulder with native Quebecois who continue to subscribe to the rural, agrarian lifestyles that have defined regions of Eastern Quebec throughout its history and to modern day. From beef cattle farms, to horse-breeding operations, to agricultural management, dude ranches, and trail-riding outfitters, students will volunteer between 5 and 7 hours per day for a week. Join us! - A language and culture adventure awaits!

Instructors: David Benson, Gretchen Gresham

Limit: 14-16 students

Cost: \$2400 - \$2800

Dates of Travel: March 7-22, 2017

Student interests that match this ECS:

- French language - *priority will be given to students who are or have been enrolled in French*
- European influence in North America
- The human ability to adapt to and become integrated in a culture other than one’s own
- The significance of environment on a civilization’s history, culture, and identity

Student Prerequisites:

- **A passport valid through 10/31/2017, with at least 2 blank pages for entry stamps. Students under 16 years old at the time of travel need only present proof of U.S. citizenship.**

Law and Order

An exploration of the inner workings of the American system of criminal justice

This ECS partners with local lawyers, judges, police, and others, to give students an insider's look at workings of the American criminal justice system, from arrest, to trial, to incarceration. Students visit jails, prisons, prison museums, courtrooms and police stations in Colorado Springs, Denver, Florence, and Canon City to meet with men and women who work everyday in some aspect of criminal justice. Significant time is also devoted to students' preparing and arguing a law case themselves in a classroom simulation known as Mock Trial. In addition, students will research how social conditions, such as racism, economic inequality, and educational disadvantage, impact the American justice system. If you are considering a career in law or politics, a college major in political science, public policy, or criminal justice, or if you are interested in honing your skills in public speaking, debate, and critical thinking, this is the ECS for you.

Instructors: Melissa Hafter, John Longo

Limit: 16 students

Cost: \$450

Dates of Travel: Various day trips in Colorado Springs, Denver, and environs; one possible overnight in Canon City.

Student interests that match this ECS:

- A career in law, law enforcement, or politics
- Political Science, Criminology or Sociology
- Public Speaking, Debate, Mock Trial
- Ethics, philosophy, and how public policy affects American society
- Societal issues such as racism, economic inequality, and educational opportunity

Life in Scandinavia

Shaping a society through the role of government

Essential Question: How can a society strive to become more healthy, balance private and public services, reduce social ills, and find a path that improves the lives and well being of its citizens?

How can we measure the success and happiness of a civilization? Striving to be a highly-developed, healthy society requires balancing public services with the workings of private markets, being economically competitive, reducing social ills, and finding a path to improve the lives and well being of all its citizens. This is a difficult task, but none is more important. This seminar focuses on Scandinavia, widely cited as having some of the healthiest and happiest societies in the world. Students travel to Stockholm and Copenhagen to examine the government's role in areas such as health care and education, while investigating historical and cultural reasons that led to its current economic structure. The seminar hopes to include many diverse experiences, including the education and culture in Lund, SE. This includes short home stays, attending school, and sharing presentations about the respective economies.

Instructors: Jennifer Hedden, Paul Young

Limit: 16 students

Cost: \$3500 - \$3650

Dates of Travel: To fall within the window of March 8 - 22. Total days of travel will be about 12-13.

Student interests that match this ECS:

- Finance and economics
- Cultural comparisons and contrasts between the United States and Northern Europe
- Political science
- Homestay experiences

Student Prerequisites:

- Vaccines and medications:
 - Routine vaccinations - be up-to-date on all vaccines including measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and yearly flu shot.
 - Hepatitis A and B (if in a situation that creates the need for this vaccine), and Rabies (if in a situation that creates the need for rabies vaccine, and we will NOT be) vaccines are [recommended by the CDC](#) but not required.
- A passport valid through 10/31/2017, with at least 4 blank pages for entry stamps

Southwest Discovery

The many layers of the colorful life of the American Southwestern region

This ECS will involve immersion into the magic of the American Southwest. While exploring this land not all that far from here, we will experience the wonder of southwestern culture, art, and nature. We will spend time in Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico and in various locales in the Navajo Nation in Arizona and Utah, such as Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, and Rainbow Bridge. Through hands-on workshops and wilderness excursions we will explore the unique natural beauty of this region that has inspired so much art and literature. This land and its people will inspire our own artistic pieces through a variety of mediums such as visual arts, music, dance, and creative writing. Another intrinsic part of this ECS will involve community service with such organizations as the Diné Youth in Shiprock and the YES Organization that is designed to empower youth. Such immersion will allow us to recognize and appreciate the importance of preserving native cultures as we also reflect upon our own identities within the desert landscape.

Instructors: Amy Johnson-Smith, Marta Kunze, Hans Wolfe

Limit: 16-18 students

Cost: \$1400-\$1600

Dates of Travel: TBD within the ECS term -- aiming for at least one week in NM and another in Navajo Nation

Student interests that match this ECS:

- Desert wilderness
- Arts in many forms
- Culture of native peoples
- Understanding oneself in connection to the natural world
- Service to others

Space Exploration

Essential Question: What types of problems do spacecraft engineers need to solve, how do they go about solving them, and what tools do they use?

Space...the final frontier. Our mission: to go where few humans have gone before. Our modes of transportation: rockets and high altitude balloons. In this ECS students will use the iterative engineering process to design, construct, simulate, test, and mathematically model flights of low-power rockets and high altitude balloons. We will design our rockets to meet the 2016-17 Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) criteria and may enter one or more teams in this national competition. Multiple launches of high altitude balloons will help us explore near-space conditions at altitudes of approximately 100,000 feet (three times as high as commercial jets!). Students will design various data collection devices and imaging equipment to be used as balloons travel from ground level to atmospheric conditions, where the air is only one percent as dense as air at earth's surface. Colorado Springs/Denver and Albuquerque are home to leaders in aerospace technology and education. We will take advantage of opportunities to engage with industry professionals in these locations by visiting organizations such as: Space Foundation, Aerospace Corporation, Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation, Boeing, Colorado Space Coalition, Kratos, Apogee, Honeywell, COSROCS, Lockheed Martin, and ATA. This ECS will leave campus on a near-daily basis to access launch sites, become licensed in HAM radio operation, balloon-chase, and learn from industry specialists. Excursions will include a multi-day trip to the Albuquerque region. Experience this ECS and take your first step towards becoming a leader in the aerospace industry!

Instructors: Eric Gaylord, Nicole Goyette, and TBD

Limit: 18 students

Cost: \$600 - \$800

Dates of Travel: TBD, but most likely within the window of March 15-22

Student interests that match this ECS:

- Aerospace and /or materials science
- Cutting-edge technology
- Engineering and applied math
- Rocketry
- High altitude balloons
- HAM radio operation
- Near-space systems management and data collection
- Exploration and adventure