



## Experience Centered Seminars

### Course Descriptions, March 2013

#### **The Blues** .....

*Greg Johnson, John Longo, and Paula Scarbrough*

The roots of the Blues and Jazz music, still traceable from Memphis to New Orleans to St. Louis and beyond, is inextricably interwoven with the history of slavery and the civil rights struggle in the South. From its roots in the spiritual to the evolution of blues to the birth of the jazz movement, students dive into the rich history of these music genres. Learning the different styles of music takes them down a journey of being the historian, to the lyricist, and even the performer or producer. This is the pinnacle year to celebrate blues and jazz because 2013 is the golden anniversary of The Civil Rights Movement in American history. This ECS takes students to historic sites where these unique art forms were born on the rural porches of shanties, then follows the historic path to the current music scene where both the Blues and Jazz live on as one of America's best known creative movements.

#### **The Brain: The New Frontier** .....

*Jennifer Gaskin and Twyla Surritte*

The great new frontier of science today is the study of the brain. Covering anatomy, physiology, learning theory, behavior, brain injuries, psychoactive drugs, and comparative animal brain function, this ECS takes a deep look into our neurology and what makes us tick as human beings. Applications are made to personal learning, teaching, and community service. This ECS visits zoos, the humane society, animal trainers, classrooms, and other venues to explore the interdisciplinary topics that surround the brain. We also hear from speakers in the fields of animal behavior, medicine, learning theory, and psychology. Students become more aware of the many careers that surround this fascinating subject, and of their own learning process. The teenage brain is a topic of discussion along with the idea of brain flexibility and development.

#### **Law and Order** .....

*David Benson and Melissa Hafter*

This ECS is an in-depth examination of the criminal justices system in America, with a focus on both national and state issues. The class works with lawyers, judges, bail bonders, police, and more. Students are able to see inside at least one case, as it is possible to watch a real trial in action. We also look at the state of incarceration and prisons in America, with a focus on understanding how the USA came to be the country with the highest rates of incarceration in the world. The class visits prisons and prison museums, and learns about the differences between state and federal lock-ups and the more recent boom in private prisons. The Seminar also examines some of the social and political issues that surround issues of law and order. This ECS travels to Canon City and Florence as well as Denver.

**From Normandy to Paris** .....

*Joseph Arnold and Amy Johnson-Smith*

Paris, the City of Lights, has captivated the world for centuries. This ECS looks specifically at the post World War I artistic boom in Paris that lured American writers and artists, as well as those of other nationalities, to experience and draw inspiration from its history and color. We visit the sites frequented by the Lost Generation as we examine how, following WWI, many people from around the world sought artistic expression before the stage was set for yet another “war to end all wars.” We investigate the reasons for and the impact of the Nazi occupation and control of Paris and France as a whole. We then take an in-depth look at glory and tragedy that was D-Day, June 6, 1944, as we visit Normandy and walk in the footsteps of the Allied forces and German occupiers. We follow the Allied path back to Paris as we study the key events, movements, and internal turmoil that led up to and followed the liberation of “La Ville-Lumière.” We look at the impact of these historic events on French policy and the French psyche past and present. In addition to immersion in literature and history, students have opportunities to develop and hone their French language skills.

**Rock Art: A Glimpse into the Past** .....

*Jennifer Hedden and Hans Wolfe*

Immersed in the magical and surreal surroundings of well-known petroglyph and pictograph sites in the southwest, students learn to appreciate and re-create an art form of people before them. Students spend the first few days reading and learning about the history of the people who left the petroglyphs and pictographs, the various types and styles, how the drawings are dated, why they should be preserved, and how they should treat the sites. Some of the sites students experience are Petroglyph National Monument, Acoma Pueblo, Hueco Tanks, Three Rivers Petroglyph, and Bandelier National Monument. While visiting these locations students see the effects of urban encroachment, learn about the struggles and traditions of Ancient Puebloans, and gain a connection to a people’s past. The students keep a sketchpad journal of the sites and intriguing drawings, as well as a written journal that includes site findings and reading or lecture summaries. Their final project is a collection of revised sketches as well as the community watercolor panel on which each member of the ECS paints a favorite motif on a beautiful background to be made by our guest artist, Geri Schrab.

**Tropical Ecology** .....

*Paul Young, Marta Kunze, and Anne Taylor*

This interdisciplinary seminar focuses on a survey of ecological investigations in Costa Rica, while exploring the economic and scientific challenges of preservation of the tropics. Visits within this country range from a University of Costa Rica scientist’s lab to a small seaside village to a cloud forest. While primarily a science-based seminar, students have the opportunity to take a world-class zipline ride above the rainforest canopy, take night hikes in the jungle and on the beach, practice Spanish, and enjoy the Costa Rican culture. Scientific topics include the ecology of bats, identification of birds, and sustainable farming practices. The latter topic examines the challenges of coffee and pineapple monocultures. Spanish language is not required, but language skills are enhanced, as guides and local assistants speak Spanish to students who wish to practice.

**Writing and Art to e-Publishing**.....

*Sam Johnson, Miller Adam, and Georgia Allred*

This Writing ECS gives students an opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and polish to seriously explore the world of publishing. Whether a student is interested in nonfiction, fiction, poetry, journalism, scriptwriting, artwork, photography or other multimedia publishing forms, students are challenged to push their writing to new levels of strength and impact. In addition to the traditional disciplines of writing, editing and printing, the class also explores the new e-publishing industry that is enabling entirely new forms of layout, promotion and publication, such as publishing one’s work on the Apple iTunes Store or finding access to markets through Amazon or other eBook publishers and sales. The class visits experts in the Pikes Peak region to get first hand impressions of the process.

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**Summer ECS Proposal** (Basketball Players have first priority, but this is open to all who are interested)

**China Today** .....

*David Benson*

This unique three-week seminar during the last week of July and early August will examine the incredible diversity of China, a country that blends ancient tradition with the ultra-modern. Students will combine visits to famous sites in Beijing and Shanghai with an intensive cultural immersion into the rural mountainous regions of the Yunnan province. Our students will have a rare opportunity to trek to and visit remote villages, where rural life continues much as it has for centuries. Students will explore an exciting diversity of food, art, and music, and they will witness firsthand the world’s fastest growing economy and the dramatic social changes that this is bringing about. We will also have an opportunity to do a community service project, as well as to interact with rural Chinese school children. Students will also have the option to take an intensive introduction to spoken Chinese.