INSTRUCTOR (s): Dr. Chad Harvey, Dr. John Maclachlan
EMAIL (s): harvech@mcmaster.ca  maclacjc@mcmaster.ca
Location: Kentucky, USA.

Course Description: This is a four-day fieldtrip to Cave City, Kentucky (February 20th–23rd, 2019) 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. Students will have the opportunity to explore several cave systems within the region including the world's largest known cave system and a 'Wild Cave' tour that will allow students to experience caving with only a guide and a headlamp. Student evaluation will be based upon a pre-trip assignment to be presented to the class during the trip, course participation, a post-course reflection and participation in the post-trip meeting.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to explore the unique environment of Kentucky. If you have any further questions please contact Dr. John Maclachlan (maclacjc@mcmaster.ca), or Dr. Chad Harvey (harvech@mcmaster.ca), the Course Co-instructors.

Learning Objectives:
1. Further understanding the interconnectivity between the surface and subsurface in karstic environments
2. Gain knowledge of karstic environments through experiential learning opportunities
3. Explore the unique ecology of karstic environments

Course Schedule / Class Activities: Leave February 23rd at 8:00am sharp (please be at McMaster prior to 7:45am), return February 26th at approximately 8:00pm. The return time is an estimate; issues with traffic and delays at the border are out of our control. We will be leaving from and returning to the traffic circle on campus just outside of the east entrance of Mary Keyes.

You must show either John or Chad your passports prior to getting in the van both on the way to Kentucky and on the way home.

Office Hours: By Appointment
Required Texts & Materials: Posted on Avenue as necessary

Deliverables: This class will have three components all graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass all four components to pass the course.
1. Students must prepare (in pairs) a one page, double sided handout on a topic related to the theme of the trip, to be presented via a 10-15 minute oral presentation during the course of the trip. Presentations will occur in a setting to complement the topic. For example, a presentation on the importance of Floyd Collins will be given at Floyd Collins grave site, or a discussion on the unique geologic and geomorphologic factors leading to the formation of the Mammoth Caves will occur at the mouth of the caves. A sufficient number of handouts must be brought for all course participants. You can sign up on the Google Document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iGmwpvyUJJU9KuLs51o0TxyRrbVQex1XaxpeaBcZs4Yo/edit?usp=sharing
2. Participation during the trip (appropriate behaviour, engagement in discussions, etc.)
3. A reflection piece outlining the value of the experiences gained as a result of the trip (with permission of the instructor, this reflection piece may take the form of a podcast, video or annotated photo journal). The due date will coincide with the date of the informal discussion.
4. An informal discussion session on what was learned on the trip and the experiences taken from it. The date for this session will be discussed with the class.

Packing List: On the second full day of our trip we will be visiting Hidden River Cave where we will have the opportunity to spend several hours underground in a young unspoiled cave. The clothes worn on this portion of the trip (including shoes) will be, most likely, unusable for the rest of the weekend. Plan for this in both making sure you bring enough clothes and having clothes you don't mind potentially getting ruined.

Personal Gear and Field Equipment:
- ID (including health card and passport)
- rain jacket
- pencils/pens
- hiking shoes/boots
- regular running shoes
- digital camera & batteries
- gloves
- kneepads (optional)
- backpack
- field pants & shirts (remember everything worn in Hidden River Cave will be EXTREMELY Dirty and unusable for the rest of the trip)
- Long-sleeve T-Shirt. (many people find having a long sleeve shirt in the cave can be helpful in avoiding the odd scrape)
- T-shirts
- sweater/fleece
- sunglasses
- hat
- towel
- toiletries
- flashlight/head lamp (you are responsible for your secondary source of light in Hidden River Cave)
• water bottle(s)
• games/cards/things to do in the car
• American money
• garbage bag(s) (IMPORTANT: for your clothes)
GENERAL INFORMATION

A reminder that this course is PASS or FAIL. You are responsible for participating in all aspects of the module and absences or missed work could result in grade penalties.

Absences & Missed Work:
If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting up to 3 calendar days, you may report your absence, once per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted. When using the MSAF, report your absence to course instructor or designate. You must then contact the instructor/instructional assistant/other immediately (normally within 2 working days) by email. Please refer to the contact list on the first page of this outline for appropriate email addresses. The instructor/instructional assistant will indicate what relief may be granted for the work you have missed, and relevant details such as revised deadlines, or time and location of a make-up exam/quiz/test. Please note that the MSAF may not be used for final deliverables, nor can it be used for a final examination or its equivalent.

Checking Your Grades:
All grade concerns and discrepancies must be reported to the Instructor within a week of receiving the grade.

Communication between Students and the Instructional Team:
Any e-mails addressed to faculty must have a brief, relevant subject line, must come from a mcmaster.ca e-mail account and must copy in all relevant parties (e.g. other markers, other group members). All e-mail communication addressed to students will be sent to their mcmaster.ca e-mail account.

Work that is late, handed in to the wrong person, inadequately identified, or in the wrong format, risks losing marks.
Instructors will endeavor to return marked materials within two weeks of hand-in.

Student Responsibilities:
To get the most out of the course, you must be prepared to:

- attend all sessions, make up all missed work, and provide documentation for authorized absences;
- interact frequently with faculty, students, TAs, and other support staff;
- plan and manage your own time;
- complete preparatory tasks (such as reading, writing assignments, and initial research) in advance of sessions;
develop and use reflective learning skills (for example identifying learning objectives, planning and carrying out research tasks, acting on academic feedback);

work as an effective, efficient, and responsive team member on group assignments;

follow all the guidelines as outlined in the Introduction section of the Laboratory Manual;

check the course Avenue site, and your McMaster and Avenue e-mail daily for updates; and,

follow all university policies and guidelines, and in all ways be a responsible university member.

Senate Student Policies
Students can view full policies here (http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/).
Senate Policy Statements are also available from the Senate Secretariat Office, Room 104, and Gilmour Hall.

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the 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. The following illustrate only four of many 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;
- copying or using unauthorized aids in laboratory exercises
- improper collaboration in group work; and
- copying or using unauthorized aids in quizzes, tests and examinations

All students are reminded of the importance of academic integrity, and the serious consequences of academic dishonesty.

You acknowledge that your behavior in all aspects of this course should meet the standards of the McMaster University Student Code of Conduct. You understand that any inappropriate behavior directed against any of your colleagues, teaching assistants, or the instructional team will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior during any session
(e.g. lecture, seminar, lab, tutorial) such as talking, sleeping or non-class computing while an individual presents information, or constantly being late, will also not be tolerated. Abuse, ridicule, slander, inappropriate language, and discrimination towards instructors teaching staff, teaching assistants and other students will not be tolerated in any capacity. Shared spaces including e-spaces such as the Avenue to Learn course discussion board are to be considered inclusive and safe.

**Plagiarism Detection**
In this course, we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to
https://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/
https://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/turnitin/students/index.html

**Copyright Policy**
In this course you will have access to material that is subject to copyright laws. This includes (but is not limited to) textbooks and all resources developed by the instructors such as lab manuals, demonstration videos, quizzes, assignments, tests, class notes and class slides. Under no circumstance are you allowed to share or redistribute this material in any printed or electronic form without the explicit written consent of the copyright holder. This includes posting any course material on Internet bulletin boards, course repositories, social networks, etc.

**McMaster Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances Form (RISO):**
At the beginning of EACH term, visit the website of the Office of the Associate Dean (Academic)
https://www.science.mcmaster.ca/associatedean/current-students/procedures-forms.html if you need accommodations for religious, Indigenous and/or spiritual observances. Follow the procedure explained there under “Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances Form (RISO)”. 

**Inclusivity and Accommodations:**
McMaster University aims to foster a supportive, inclusive learning environment that will encourage both individual and collective growth. Students are required to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) first (https://sas.mcmaster.ca/). Any student who then wishes to invoke an accommodation for any aspect(s) of this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss how the accommodations detailed in their SAS letter will be fulfilled in this course.
Policy about Online Access or Online Course Work Requirements: If your course has an online element:
In this course we will be using e-mail and Avenue. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

The instructors and the university reserve the right to alter this outline if necessary.
The instructors 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.