New Course Proposal Form

(07/2004)

1. Will this new course affect a current program?  
   Yes [ ]  No [x]  
   If "yes", has a Program Revision Form been submitted concurrently?  
   Yes [ ]  No [ ]

2. Teaching Department:  
   Redpath Museum

3. Administering Faculty/Unit:  
   Science

4. Campus  
   (Downtown, Macdonald, Off Campus, Distance Ed, Other – specify)  
   Off Campus

5. Effective Term of Implementation  
   (Ex. Sept. 2004 = 200409)  
   Term:  
   200901

6. Responsible Instructor  
   Rodger D. Titman / David M. Green

7. Course Title (Limit 30 Characters) - required for all courses:  
   Natural History of East Africa

8. Course Number(s)  
   Indicate course number & the number of terms spanned:  
   (tick all that apply)  
   Subject/course number:  
   REDM 405  
   Course(s) Span:  
   [x] 1 term  
   [ ] 2 consecutive terms (D1, D2)  
   [ ] 2 non-consecutive terms (N1, N2)  
   [ ] 3 consecutive terms (J1, J2, J3)

9. Course Title to Appear in the Calendar (optional)  
   (Limit 59 characters):  
   Natural History of East Africa

10. Credit Weight  
    (or CEU's for non-credit CE courses):  
    3.00

11. Rationale for new course  
    The core curriculum of the AFSS (African Field Studies Semester) has lately been reorganized via the creation of the two new unifying context courses, ANTH/GEOG 451 Research in Social Determinants of Development in Africa and NRSC/BIOL 451 Research in Ecology and Development in Africa, which are obligatory for all students in the program and which run concurrently throughout the semester in Africa. These courses replace two 300-level courses, GEOG 300 and NRSC 300, as the program’s core curriculum. At the same time, the intellectual rigour of the program is being enhanced such that AFSS courses are more appropriately listed at the 400-level. Although NRSC 300 “Natural History of East Africa” has been removed from its place in the AFSS core curriculum, there remains great utility in teaching integrative natural history in the African context at the 400-level. In particular, subjects such as geology and climatology that are of importance in understanding the East African landscape would not otherwise be taught explicitly.

    Continued on page C2-3

12. Course Description  
    (as it will appear in the Calendar [maximum 50 words]):  
    (N.B. Faculty of Medicine must append complete course outline)  
    Integrated study of African landforms, geologic history, climate, environments, biota, water resources and human influences, fostering a thorough understanding of the East African landscape and its inhabitants. Lectures, discussions on selected topics, use of museum resources and field studies will develop powers of observation, identification and enquiry.

13. Supplementary information to appear in the Calendar in addition to the course description.  
    Such as: equivalent course(s), contact hours, enrolment limitations, language of instruction etc.  
    Please enter the information as it should appear in the calendar notes.  
    Open only to African Field Study Semester (AFSS) students during the year of participation in the field.
14. Schedule Types(s):
(Enter all that apply – see course guidelines for a complete list.)
(i.e. Lecture, Labs, Tutorial)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Field Exercises</th>
<th>Hours per Week</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars and Discussions</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours per Week: 21
Total Number of Weeks: 3

15. Projected Enrolment:

18

16. Required text and/or preliminary reading list sent to library?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

17. Prerequisite(s) (Courses or Tests)
Specify course number(s) or name(s) of test(s):

If the student does not have a prerequisite should web registration be blocked?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

If “Yes” complete A and B:

A. Indicate minimum grade or test score(s) the student must attain in prerequisite course(s) or test(s):

B. Can the prerequisite course(s) or test(s) be taken in the same term as this course?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

18. Corequisite(s) Course Number(s):
Specify course number(s) and title(s):

ANTH/GEOG 451 and NRSC/BIOL 452

If the student does not register for the corequisite in the same term should web registration be blocked?
☒ Yes  ☐ No

19. Restriction(s):

Not open to students who have taken NRSC 300 or GEOG 300. Not open to students have taken or are taking NRSC405.

20. Consultation Reports Attached
☒ Yes  ☐ N/A

21. Additional Course Charges (must be approved by the Fee Policy Committee)

Description of Fee (e.g. screening fee)  Amount

22. Requires Teaching, Physical, or Financial Resources
Not Currently Available (attach explanation)
☐ Yes  ☒ No
14. Rationale for revised course (cont’d)

The transdisciplinary nature of Natural History, variously incorporating principles of geology, geography, physical anthropology, hydrology, climate and biodiversity cuts across departmentally-based disciplines in the sciences. As a Natural History museum, the Redpath Museum is linked to many of these areas. The major educational resources in East Africa for teaching Natural History are likewise museums. These include the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi, the Tanzanian Natural History Museum in Arusha and the Zoology and Geology Museums of Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. An MOU between McGill and the National Museums of Kenya that will ease the sharing of materials and personnel is being negotiated.

It is thus appropriate to code-share this course between NRSC (Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences) and REDM (Faculty of Science) and teach it at the 400-level as one of the intensive three-week sessional courses that are offered by the AFSS program.