New Course Proposal Form

1. Will this new course affect a current program?
   Yes ☐  No ☒
   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)
   Downtown
   Term: 200801

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

6. Responsible Instructor: D. Green & Redpath Museum Staff

7. Course Title (Limit 30 Characters) - required for all courses:
   Science and Museums

8. Course Number(s)
   Indicate course number & the number of terms spanned:
   (tick all that apply)
   Subject/course number: REDM 400
   Course(s) Span:
   - 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):
   Note: This can ONLY be an expansion of word(s) abbreviated in the 30 character course title above.
   Science and Museums

10. Credit Weight (or CEU's for non-credit CE courses):
    3

11. Rationale for new course
    Despite a fundamental role for specimen-based research in studies of evolution, systematics, biogeography, earth history and biodiversity conservation, there is a growing dearth of specialists equipped to make use of specimen-based information for research and policy development. Natural history collections are critical links in aiding our understanding of life on Earth and the conservation of the natural environment. They represent raw data for natural science in the form of specimens, locality records, image banks and preserved tissues. In biology, for instance, these are critical sources of information needed to identify species and investigate the nature of variation in the living world. They are also invaluable resources for educating the general public about the history and diversity of life on Earth. In museums and other natural history collections today, curation techniques are advancing, data are being digitized, networks of collections are linking the data in unprecedented ways, and novel techniques are being used to study and display the specimens that they contain. There is a need for a course that will equip the next generation of natural scientists, educators and conservationists to take full advantage of these resources.
    The course will be taught at the Redpath Museum, the first purpose-built natural history museum in Canada. It will take advantage of the active research programs ongoing at the Museum, its links with other faculties, schools and departments, and its collaborations with other museums, institutions and international biodiversity organizations. It is appropriately a REDM course in consideration of its transdisciplinary nature and focus on Museum-related studies.
    Please see p. C1-3 for continuation.

12. Course Description
    (as it will appear in the Calendar [maximum 50 words]):
       (N.B. Faculty of Medicine must append complete course outline)
       Natural history museums and their collections, how collections are created and maintained and how collections are used in scientific research. Context of natural history museums, collections-based research and curatorial methods.

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.
    (Winter Term) Course consists of lectures, practical labs, field trips and individual term-projects.
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>Hours per Week</th>
<th>Labs</th>
<th>Hours per Week</th>
<th>Total Hours per Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours per Week: 5
Total Number of Weeks: 13

15. Projected Enrolment:

25

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):

A 200- or 300-level course that deals with diversity of specimens or objects relevant to Museum-based research and collections. See p.C1-3

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):

n/a

If the student does not register for the corequisite in the same term should web registration be blocked?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

19. Restriction(s):


20. Consultation Reports Attached

☐ Yes  ☐ N/A

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Fee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(e.g. screening fee)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. Requires Teaching, Physical, or Financial Resources
Not Currently Available (attach explanation)

☐ Yes  ☐ No
Box 11. Rationale for new course continued:

“Science and Museums” cuts across disciplines and will be of interest to students in diverse programs at McGill University. The course could be adopted as a key course for numerous students in Biology, especially those in the “Biological Diversity and Systematics” and “Conservation Biology” Concentrations, and in the “Biodiversity and Conservation” Domain in the School of Environment. It may work well also as a complementary course for students enrolled in Biology’s “Ecology” and “Evolutionary Biology” Concentrations or in the “Wildlife Biology” and “Applied Zoology” Majors in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences. With its applications to Geology and Anthropology it could also be a complementary or elective course for programs in these subjects. Finally, it could serve as an elective course for the Library and Information Sciences Masters program and the History and Philosophy of Science Minors.

17. Prerequisite(s) (Courses or Tests)

Specify course number(s) or name(s) of test(s) continued:
e.g. BIOL, 215, BIOL 305, EPSC 210, EPSC 233, ANTH 208, ANTH 310, PLNT 358, WILD 212, WILD 313, or permission of instructor.