

INST 2500: The Culture and Place of Appalachia



Fall 2022 seminar, 1 credit, CR/NC, Wed. 6:00-7:30, IRC Klazzroom / Fall Break field exploration October 1-3
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Overview

This interdisciplinary seminar is open only to International Residential College students. We will spend 3 weeks preparing for an experiential exploration of Appalachia during Fall Reading Days and 2 weeks processing our experiences. We will study many facets of Appalachia including agriculture, industry, life during Jim Crow, and the outdoor recreation industry as we explore middle Appalachia in western Virginia and West Virginia.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, all students will be able to:

- Explain selected aspects of the history and complex factors that have created contemporary Appalachia.
- Better appreciate and explain the diversity of people and culture of Appalachia
- Challenge misperceptions about Appalachia with evidence from readings, videos, and first-hand experience
- Show a deepened tolerance and appreciation for cultural and ideological differences

Learning Evaluation: Successful completion of this credit/no credit course is dependent on:

- 1. Attendance + Participation:** Attend and actively participate in 3 pre-departure and 2 post-Reading Days classes and all activities during our Appalachia exploration. Demonstrate kindness, collegiality and patience during our travels. Complete the UVA course evaluation.
- 2. Readings:** Read one book ([What you are getting wrong about Appalachia](#)) that the IRC will buy for you. Read smaller readings posted on Collab
- 3. Research Presentation:** Prepare a class presentation a topic of your choosing (either alone or in pairs) to share after the Fall Break program
- 4. Reflection:** Prepare a brief reflection that identifies three major things you are taking away from the program. Any form of reflection (poem, drawing, essay, photo essay, collage, videos, etc.) is acceptable.

An IRC Outdoors Experience



As an IRC Outdoors Experience, this program includes some “roughing it” and adventure-based-activities. Included is a short hike, a walking tour underneath the great New River Gorge Bridge, rafting the New River (Class IV/V), and sleeping in a rustic cabin on Sunday night. While no prior experience is necessary, an adventuresome attitude is!

The IRC is funding most of the experience. Your only expected expenses are breakfasts, snacks, and souvenirs.

SCHEDULE – 9/14/22 draft

PRE FIELD EXPERIENCE	
W 9/14	Context: The long history of Appalachia – geologic, plants/animals, human, industry + Seminar goals, logistics, expectations
W 9/21	Outdoor Recreation in Appalachia, Outdoor Recreation readings. Start <i>Stranger with a Camera</i>
W 9/28	Complete reading of What you are getting wrong about Appalachia . Discussion during class. Finish start <i>Stranger with a Camera</i> . Final logistics
9/30	Optional Appalachian Movie Night in the Klazzroom – Film TBA!
APPALACHIAN FIELD STUDY – details tentative	
Sa, 10/1	8:00 AM – loading up, departure by 8:30 10-12 – Tour of Polyface Farms Lunch in Staunton, VA 3:15-5 – Hike/tour at Green Pastures Evening – Covington Baptist Church history tour, Covington, VA Lodging: Hampton Inn, Covington, VA
Su, 10/2	6:30 AM – depart hotel – EARLY START! 9-11:30 – New River Bridge Tour Lunch: quick make-your-own PB&J sandwich or similar 1:00-5:00 – New River Rafting Evening – chill time at area where we are staying Dinner – TBD – maybe in Fayetteville, WV Lodging: Rustic cabin bunkhouse
M, 10/3	8:45 AM – depart cabin 11:30 am – Tour the “ secret ” bunker at the Greenbrier Hotel Lunch at the Greenbrier Stop by Humpback Bridge on the drive back Evening: arrive back at the IRC
POST FIELD EXPERIENCE	
W 10/5	Discussing and processing of the field experience Identification of topics for research presentations
W 10/12	Research presentations
W 10/19	Reflections due. No meeting