

Natural History of

# YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

# 2011

Winterim Session

*A nine-day field experience and travel study course to Montana and Wyoming offered by the Department of Biological Sciences in cooperation with the Office of Continuing Education, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Biology 491, 2 undergrad credits)*



**Sunday, January 2 through Monday, January 10, 2011**

Our primary destination will be Yellowstone National Park. Participants will explore the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from ecological and geological perspectives. While on the road to and from Yellowstone, the group will stay at local motels (multiple occupancy). The Track Education Center and Museum in Gardiner, Montana will be the group's primary residence while in the Yellowstone area. If necessary, we will also utilize local motels (multiple occupancy).

During the week in Yellowstone, students will Cross Country Ski along the Tower Falls trail to explore wildlife and geologic features. They will also attend workshops on winter ecology conducted by Dr. Halfpenny. During these workshops, students will perform field work and data collection in the Lamar Valley. Visits are also planned to explore the geothermal features of Mammoth Hot Springs as well as a Snowcoach tour of the geothermal features of various geyser basins in Yellowstone National Park. This course is open to all university students or anyone else who has serious interest in these topics.

*Mark your calendar and take this unique opportunity to experience a slice of the American West, to study ecology and to sample the spirit of this region of our country.*

Program Cost: \$1,400 (financial aid may apply)

Cost includes transportation to and from Yellowstone, lodging (8 nights), meal allowance (9 days), ecology classes at the Track Education Center in Gardiner, Montana, snow coach tour, cross country ski rental, and all other instructional costs including two undergraduate credits. Also included is a two-day Ecology and Verification workshop held on the UW-Whitewater campus in December.



**To receive an application packet or additional information, please contact:**

Terry Behlke, Continuing Education, UW-Whitewater, Roseman 2017C,  
800 West Main Street., Whitewater, WI 53190

Phone: 262-472-1003 (direct), or 800-621-5376 (toll free), [cetravelstudy@uww.edu](mailto:cetravelstudy@uww.edu)

Or visit our web site at <http://www.uww.edu/conteduc/travel/index.htm>



## **This is a tentative itinerary and is subject to change**

### ***Yellowstone National Park Field Experience***

Workshop Dates: December 4 & 5, 2010

Travel Dates: January 2-10, 2011

#### **WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, December 4 & Sunday, December 5, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

There will be an on campus two-day workshop on cougar ecology (lectures) and tracking/verification (hands-on lab). There will be an exam at the end of the workshop. We will also hold a practice cross-country ski trip for beginners if they desire (date & location will be determined at the workshop).

#### **TRAVEL**

**Sunday, January 2**

We will depart Whitewater in the morning (7:00 AM) and travel to Rapid City, SD. Discussions include problems facing Yellowstone National Park (YNP) during the winter, such as snowmobile use, bison leaving the Park due to road use and diseases of bison.

**Monday, January 3** (Rapid City, SD)

In the morning, we will depart Rapid City, SD and travel to Gardiner, MT. Discussions include problems faced by animals of YNP due to winter conditions. These include the effect snow cover has and the change in food sources due to wolf reintroduction.

**Tuesday, January 4** (Gardiner, MT)

Students will attend workshops on winter ecology in the morning. In the afternoon, under the direction of Dr. Halfpenny, students will perform field work and data collection on the Blacktail Plateau.

**Wednesday, January 5** (Gardiner, MT)

Students will conduct field work, data collection and complete worksheet assignments in the Lamar Valley under the direction of Dr. Halfpenny in the AM. We will have lunch in Cooke City and analyze snow pits in Soda Butte Valley in the PM..

**Thursday, January 6** (Gardiner, MT)

There will be a Snow Coach tour of geothermal features of various geyser basins in Yellowstone National Park.

**Friday, January 7** (Gardiner, MT)

In the morning, half of the group will explore the geothermal features of Mammoth Hot Springs on cross-country skis. We will also visit Tower Falls if time permits. The other half of the group will perform fieldwork and data collection in the Lamar Valley under the direction of Dr. Halfpenny on cross-county skis.

**Saturday, January 8** (Gardiner, MT)

Groups will switch off (see above). In the evening after dinner, we will complete our data analysis and present our data.

**Sunday, January 9** (Mitchell, SD)

We will depart Gardiner, MT in the morning and drive to Mitchell, SD.

**Monday, January 10** (Whitewater, WI)

We will depart Mitchell, SD in the morning and travel back to Whitewater. All assignments including notebooks are due at the end of the day when we arrive at UW-W. Exam 2



## **For more information**

**To request an application packet contact:**

**Terry Behlke**  
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**OR**  
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**For academic questions contact:**

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