Teaching Mountains

David Hik
14 December 2017
Mountains Studies
- Inherently interdisciplinary
- 1st step: create networking opportunities
- Has no clear institutional home (at least at University of Alberta)
- Courses: high student demand from all Faculties
- Opportunities for in-class, in-the-field, & on-line learning
- Fun to teach
Mission

1. conducts, promotes, and coordinates innovative research from across all disciplines on mountain places, peoples and practices;

2. creates opportunities for experiential learning on campus, on-line, in mountain environments, and around the world;

3. establishes partnerships to advance applications of both theoretical and applied knowledge.
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Teaching Mountains

Mountain Knowledge & Research

>40 faculty from across campus engaged in mountain research

Summit Seminar Series brings the UofA mountain community together
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**Teaching Mountains**

**INTD 280**
90 students in-class; 350 on-line; from across campus; cross-listed by Kinesioogy & Science.

**INTD 282**
10 students/year; 7 days in the mountains; mountain skills and science (in partnership with the ACC).

**Mountain Knowledge & Research**

- >40 faculty from across campus engaged in mountain research
- Summit Seminar Series brings the UofA mountain community together
- ACC sponsorship for graduate student research and outreach
- KIAS Cluster Grant “Sustaining Mountain Cultures in the Canadian West” (2016-18)
- Canadian Ice Core Archive Facility (opened in 2017)

**Mountain Partnerships**

- Thinking Mountains international conferences (2012, 2015)
- Formalized agreements: plus many other friends and supporters

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Mountains 101
As of December 2017, nearly 20,000 registered students from over 140 countries; joint project with Parks Canada.

INTD 284 Mountain Backcountry Field Skills

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January 2016: Faculty of Science established a National Secretariat for the Canadian Mountain Network and is leading development of a Canadian Mountains NCE application (LOI submitted Nov 2017)
Thursday, March 16, 4:00-5:30pm
Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) Room 1-140

Presentations will be followed by a general discussion about UAAlberta Mountain Studies, as well as a reception

For more info: www.mountains.ualberta.ca
INTD 280–B1 The Mountain World
An Introduction to Interdisciplinary Mountain Studies

WINTER 2018
MWF, 0900 – 0950, Tory Lecture Theater B1

Zac Robinson, Physical Education and Recreation
David Hik, Biological Sciences
Martin Sharp, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Course Objectives

• To examine the physical and human dimensions of mountain environments; and to integrate disciplinary-specific knowledges in a holistic understanding of mountain places, peoples, and activities;

• To place dominant cultural understandings of mountain places and practices in their historical context;

• To evaluate the human impacts, as well as their consequences, on mountain regions;

• And to foster critical thinking, reading and writing skills at an undergraduate level.
But can only reach a small number of students in a classroom...

Adaptations to high UV

1. Pigmentation- acts as a protective layer against harmful UV rays, but at a cost
   Ex. Melanin and carotenoid pigments
launched 9 January 2017

- ~20,000 students registered
- 147 countries (all territories/provinces)
- #1 ranked science MOOC on class-central.com
- produced in cooperation with Parks Canada, Alpine Club of Canada and others.
making a MOOC .... 18 months
Banff National Park

Mountains 101: a free online learning experience

Parks Canada is proud to partner with the University of Alberta, a leader in education and research, to support Mountains 101: Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that will provide a comprehensive overview of mountain studies.
2018 and beyond?

## Teaching Mountains

+ + other courses

Certificate in Mountain Studies (*12)

### MOUNTAINS 2xx mini-MOOC’s?

Are there new on-line courses on specific topics that we could develop in collaboration with other partners, and build on the foundations of Mountains 101?

## Mountain Knowledge & Research

Establishing MOUNTAIN STUDIES as an institutional signature area and strategic priority.

Developing a UofA Mountain Portal

[www.mountains.ualberta.ca](http://www.mountains.ualberta.ca)

## Mountain Partnerships

Thinking Mountains 2018 Conference

Partnership with Alpine Club, RCGS & Parks Canada to co-develop Giant Floor Map of Canada’s mountains

Annual Mountain Festival and celebration of International Mountain Day

A Canadian Mountains Networks of Centres of Excellence initiative

Unique academic, government agency, First Nation, private sector partnerships

[www.canadianmountainnetwork.ca](http://www.canadianmountainnetwork.ca)

Expanding international partnerships & collaboration
Maybe could organize a session on Teaching Mountains? Interest?