

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.

Teaching Mountains

**Mountain Knowledge
& Research**

Mountain Partnerships

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Teaching Mountains

DEVELOPMENT 2008 - 2017

Mountain Knowledge & Research



>40 faculty
from across
campus
engaged in
mountain
research

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



CANADIAN MOUNTAIN STUDIES INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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Teaching Mountains



INTD 280

90 students in-class; 350 on-line; from across campus; cross-listed by Kinesiology & Science.



INTD 282

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

Mountain Knowledge & Research

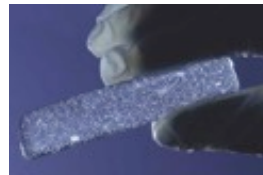


>40 faculty from across campus engaged in mountain research

Summit Seminar Series brings the UofA mountain community together



ACC sponsorship for graduate student research and outreach



Canadian Ice Core Archive Facility (opened in 2017)



Interdisciplinary **KIAS Cluster Grant** "Sustaining Mountain Cultures in the Canadian West" (2016-18)

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.



Mountain Knowledge & Research

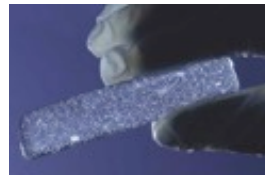


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January 2016: Faculty of Science established a National Secretariat for the Canadian Mountain Network and is leading development of a **Canadian Mountains NCE** application (LOI submitted Nov 2017)

summit series public lecture

UAlberta mountain initiative

Thursday, March 16, 4:00-5:30pm

Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) Room 1-140

Julie Rak, Professor

English and Film Studies

*"Everest, Everest, and the Difficult Legacy of
Jon Krakauer"*

Daniel Sims, Assistant Professor

History and Indigenous Studies, Augustana Campus

*"The Problem Is Transportation: Development in Omineca
District (B.C.) in the Early Twentieth-Century"*

Alberto Reyes, Assistant Professor

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

"The controversial multimillion-year history of the Greenland ice sheet"

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

For more info: www.mountains.ualberta.ca



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
KULE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

INT D 280–B1 The Mountain World

An Introduction to Interdisciplinary Mountain Studies

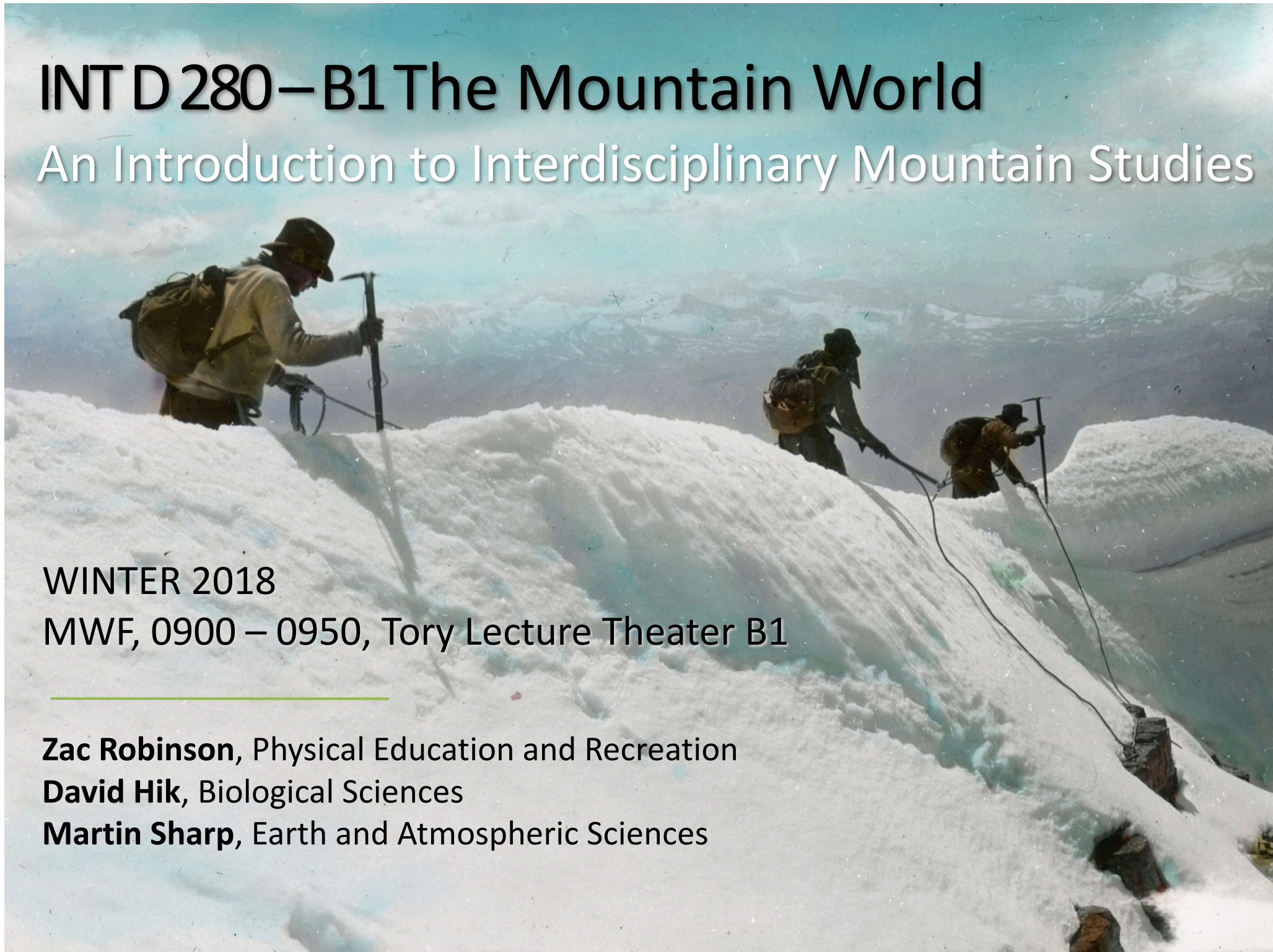
WINTER 2018

MWF, 0900 – 0950, Tory Lecture Theater B1

Zac Robinson, Physical Education and Recreation

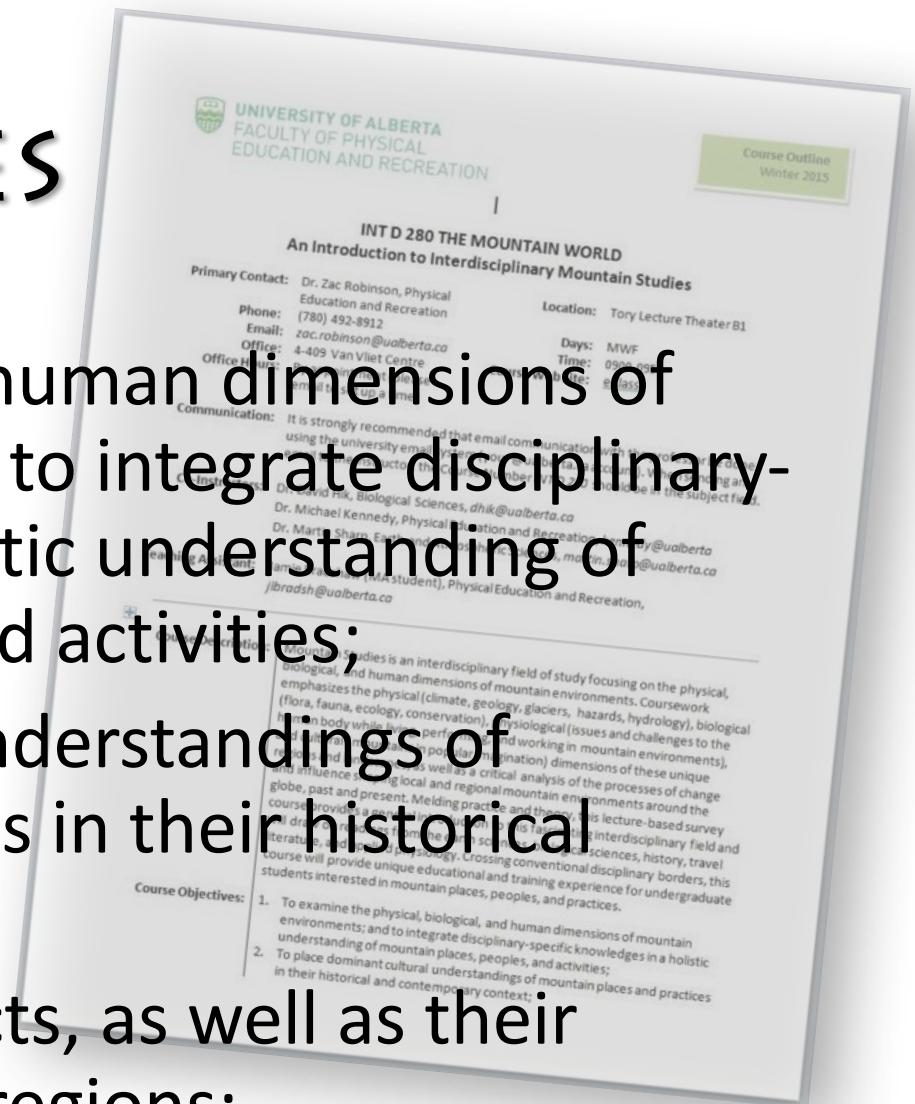
David Hik, Biological Sciences

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.

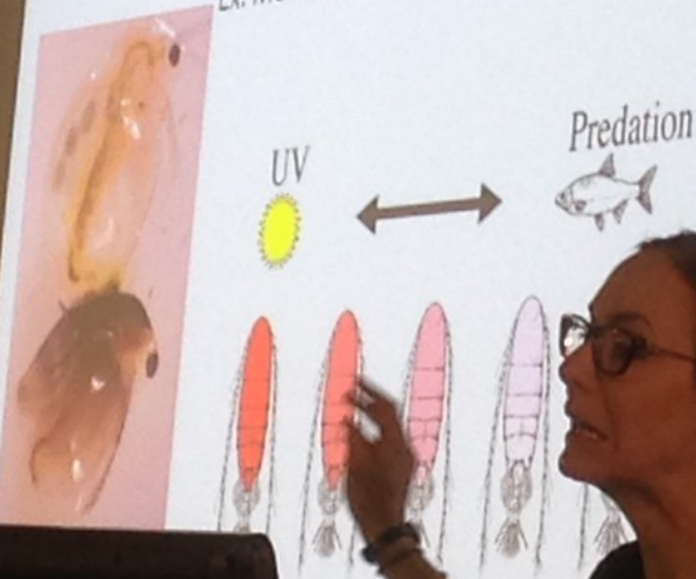


But can only reach a small number of students in a classroom...

Adaptations to high UV

1. Pigmentation- acts as a protective layer against harmful UV rays, but at a cost

Ex. Melanin and carotenoid pigments





MOUNTAINS 101

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

WELCOME TO YOUR
CLASSROOM

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.



MOUNTAINS 101

making a MOOC 18 months





Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

[Home](#) > [National Parks of Canada](#) > [Banff National Park](#) > [Learning Experiences](#) > Mountains 101

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.

Teaching Mountains



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?

2018 and beyond?

Mountain Knowledge & Research



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

Developing a **UofA Mountain Portal**
mountains.ualberta.ca



canadianmountainnetwork.ca

A Canadian Mountains **Networks of Centres of Excellence** initiative

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



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**



Expanding **international** partnerships & collaboration



Mountain Partnership
working together for mountain peoples and environments



The Mountain Research Initiative
Advancing Global Change Research in Mountains





THINKING
MOUNTAINS

Interdisciplinary Summit

October 2-5, 2018
Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity,
Banff, Alberta, Canada

CALL FOR PAPERS

www.thinkingmountains.ca

Maybe could organize a session on Teaching Mountains?
Interest?