




Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Fall 2015

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IRA Funds Request for Yosemite Field Experience

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Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Daniel Wakelee
Activity Title	Yosemite Field Experience
Activity/Event Date	10/9 - 10/11
Date Funding Needed By	June
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Fall 2013
Proposal #	0481
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	Yes
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	Yosemite2013IRAreport.pdf
Additional Report #1	
Additional Report #2	
Additional Report #3	
Additional Proposers	Don Rodriguez
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	Political Science ESRM
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	4002
Amount Requested from IRA	8820
Estimated Number of Students Participating	30
Conditions and Considerations	Field Trip
Brief Activity Description	<p>This activity involves travel to Yosemite National Park as part of the interdisciplinary ESRMPOLS 341 course, the National Park. This trip provides an opportunity for students to experience one of the nation's great resource parks while integrating content from course readings and lectures about parks and their operations.</p> <p>The group stays at the NatureBridge environmental education facility located at Crane Flat in Yosemite National Park. NatureBridge staff provide orientation to the park and lead hikes in Yosemite Valley. The group travels to the park on a Friday (6+ hours by bus). Students spend the day Saturday and Sunday morning meeting with park officials and return to campus late Sunday night.</p> <p>During the visit students meet with and participated in discussions with a range of key staff and managers such as:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Park Superintendent concerning the Park Service and park management issues • Managers and rangers who speak on topics such as discussing climate change with park visitors, fire management in the park, managing visitors on Half Dome, techniques for tracking bears and bear management in the park, the history and experience of native people in Yosemite, and discussions about a typical day of a law enforcement ranger • The class has been very fortunate to be able to meet with Interpretive Ranger and author Shelton Johnson who delivers his nationally recognized living history presentation on Buffalo Soldiers and talks about engaging underrepresented visitors in national parks
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	<p>Course learning outcomes include:</p> <p>Describe, understand and analyze the struggle to balance competing social, political and economic interests impacted by the operation of parks, particularly in the context of mission of the Park Service.</p> <p>Describe the role of scientific study within the park and the use of scientific data by decision makers.</p> <p>Describe and analyze the policy making and administrative processes that impact the management of a national park.</p> <p>Analyze the effectiveness of programs designed to attract and educate diverse groups in the park.</p> <p>Describe issues facing parks in the 21st century. Write persuasively about major issues of conservation, public policy and education related to national parks.</p> <p>Prepare and present a campaign or activity designed to engage diverse college age groups with national parks.</p> <p>The IRA funded activity is integral to the National Park Course. It offers an immersive experience at one of the world's iconic protected areas. This allows students to experience the park as visitors as well as observers of the complex operational and policy problems tied to managing a major protected area. The experience prepares students to return to CI and prepare a culminating presentation or informational campaign designed to better engage the larger community with national parks.</p>
Description of Assessment Process	<p>Students in the course maintain an online journal with entry topics designed to prompt reflection on specific topics related to the visit and larger course themes. The journal entries are also used to assess the effectiveness of various elements of the visit.</p> <p>As a culminating experience for the course students draw on their experience in Yosemite to create an activity or campaign to engage college students in aspects of the national park experience. These projects are presented to the larger community and are assessed with the assistance of National Park staff.</p>
Activity Budget	Yosemite2015IRAtravelbudget.xlsx
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	In addition to IRA, student course fees are the other source of support for this project.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	<p>The immediate audience for this activity is students enrolled in ESRM/ POLS 341. This course is an upper division interdisciplinary general education course. While it often has a number of ESRM and Political Science majors, it always includes students from a diverse array of majors. The course often includes students from majors such as Art, Business, Communication, Computer Science, History, and Spanish. This year a particular effort will be made to encourage enrollment in the course by students who have participated in Project ISLAS.</p> <p>The secondary audience for this activity is the campus community. The National Park Service places a priority on expanding interest in National Parks among college age students. The course is designed to equip students to become ambassadors of the national park idea to their peers.</p>
Bring Benefit to Campus	As a culminating experience for the course students draw on their experience in Yosemite to create an activity or campaign to engage college students in aspects of the national park experience. These projects are presented to the CI larger community and are assessed with the assistance of National Park staff. Past projects have included organizing projects that involve CI students in activities in National Parks and working with specific campus clubs and groups that did not have a history of utilizing resources in National Parks. In past years some student projects have been adopted by the Park Service as part of its broader outreach efforts to college age students.
Sustainability	This activity gives students a firsthand experience in observing the issues associated with managing a national park that receives millions of visitors annually and how the park deals with the environmental impacts of that visitation. During their visit students meet with managers responsible for preserving Yosemite's environment to talk about their challenges and successes.
Program Chair/Director	donald.rodriquez
Academic Affairs AVP	karen.carey
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Donald Rodriguez
Date/Time	3/3/2015 12:21:06 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-ZP-9143

Academic Affairs AVP Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	3/4/2015 8:33:05 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-2R-5077