

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR FACULTY:



On the Edge: Contentious Issues in the Grand Canyon *May/June 2021*

Grand Canyon National Park is one of the most iconic landscapes in the world, drawing over six million visitors annually. Once you peer deeper into the canyon, however, “thorny” issues abound in this complex and sometimes contentious context. From the management of the Colorado River, Traditional Cultural Properties, and tourism to development projects and uranium mining that threaten park resources and operations, each issue has its own stratigraphy. New technologies further imperil the park experience: drone use, geotagging, and social media updates can be deadly along the canyon rim as users attempt the ultimate selfie and pay the ultimate price for social media fame. This institute will use Place as Text pedagogy on the North Rim and South Rim in order to examine some of the historic and contemporary issues of community, culture, and conservation. Can the constituency for the park grow while maintaining the quality of the national park experience? And, are we, as has been argued by the National Geographic Society, among others, loving our National Parks to death?

Transitions and Transgressions in Amsterdam *Early July 2021*

Amsterdam may have more culture per capita than anywhere else. It has more canals than Venice and bikes than people, welcomes 20 million visitors a year, and is home to some 180 nationalities. In a city that champions tolerance and cultural diversity, over 85% of the population speak at least two languages. Amsterdam is a city of seamless transitions, from transportation and infrastructure to commerce and design – coffee shops and brothels included. It is an ideal place to consider how movement, money, multiculturalism, and museums simultaneously embrace the Dutch past and define the global future. Through readings, explorations, discussions, and writings, participants will consider such themes as tradition and innovation, business and efficiency, geography and transportation, gender and sexuality, majority and minority, and questions of legality. This NCHC Place as Text Faculty Institute features structured exploration of some of Amsterdam’s most recognized sites, such as the Van Gogh Museum, the Anne Frank House, and the Stedelijk Museum, as well as diverse residential neighborhoods, markets, and business locales that are situated off the beaten path.



(Re)reading “The City Different”: Santa Fe as “The City Consumable” *May 2022*

The state of New Mexico has a rich and unique identity when it comes to its culture, cuisine, and art. Founded over 400 years ago, Santa Fe is the nation’s oldest capital city. It has experienced waves of migrations along the three trails that lead there—the Old Spanish Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, and El Camino Real—and more recently via the rails, Route 66, and the interstate. The city is situated against the backdrop of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and the Jemez range. The early Native American inhabitants called it the “Dancing Ground of The Sun” while the founding frontiersman at the turn of the 20th century referred to it as “The City Different.” Home to the third largest art market in the United States, with over 250 art galleries within the city’s limits, and a thriving food and cocktail scene, locals and visitors alike flock to the city to consume all that it produces. This NCHC City as Text™ faculty institute invites participants to consider and complicate the notion of authenticity, investigating how Santa Fe has navigated its past and present, how it embraces consumerism and yet remains highly local and distinctively southwest.

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Bridging the Gaps? Exploring the Cultural Geography of Pittsburgh June 2022

Pride, pierogies, personality, perseverance, and people create the patchwork that is Pittsburgh. From repurposed steel mills to the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh – marked by the convergence of three rivers – has continually defined itself through – and sometimes against – its industrial history. This NCHC Place as Text Faculty Institute invites participants to uncover and navigate through and across the juxtapositions found in this city, one bridge at a time.

FOR STUDENTS:

Living on the Chesapeake: Watershed Moments on the Bay Dec. 2020 - Jan. 2021

An Honors Winterim Program for Students

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest of over 100 estuaries in the United States and the third largest in the world. The Bay provides vital resources such as blue crabs, oysters, and menhaden, and it has fueled robust local and regional economies for centuries. In fact, even today, the tiny town of Reedville ranks first in the contiguous U.S. for fish landings. A focus of intensive conservation efforts since the 1970s, the Bay's key health indicators have improved, but, overall, it continues to earn a barely passing grade of D+. With a watershed that is home to more than eighteen million people, the Bay is affected by land management practices over more than 64,000 square miles extending from northern New York to southern Virginia. With its incredible jurisdictional complexity – six states and the District of Columbia and nearly 1,800 local jurisdictions (i.e., towns, cities, counties, and townships) – the Bay is a contested space in many ways, and it has been for generations.

In this National Collegiate Honors Council Winterim program, students will be immersed in profoundly complex civic issues. While scientific study can offer key insights, science alone cannot offer solutions. Through Place-as-Text explorations in the watershed, students will be invited to experience the Bay as scholars and citizens, connecting with the unique communities and cultures of the region. Other field experiences will facilitate engagement with the Bay's watermen, the men and women who depend upon sustainable populations of the Bay's fauna. By considering classic works of literature, data from scientific research, complex public policies, and a long and rich written history, students will integrate learning across disciplinary boundaries as they are challenged to understand stewardship issues that cannot be limited by political boundaries.



FOR ALUMNI:



America's Youngest Old City: NCHC's Alumni Scholars Program in Baltimore 2021

In big cities and small, urban landscapes and wilderness, in the U.S. and abroad, NCHC Honors Semesters and Winterim alumni have taken on the challenge of discovering place and self. A vehicle they have used to do so is City as Text™, an investigative laboratory that permits explorers to seek and find connections in environments unfamiliar to them. In this inaugural Alumni Scholars Program, we invite alumni to reconnect with City as Text™, to reconvene and experience anew the excitement of learning through a regenerative and invigorating experience. Although students of Honors Semesters and Winterims have lived and learned in diverse and interesting places around the world, the city of Baltimore – “the coolest city on the East Coast” – has never served as host. Long maligned, today's Baltimore is home to a budding art scene, a rich culinary community, an ensemble of interesting neighborhoods, and a booming entrepreneurial millennial population. Join us to explore this complicated, exciting, and delicious city worthy of your expert investigation.