



2021-2022

**Experience-Centered Seminars
Course Information**

**Placement Criteria and
Seminar Descriptions**

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Placement Criteria

Placement in ECSs are assigned according to the following criteria:

- Grade Level
- Preference Ranking of Previous ECS Placements
- Gender and Grade Level Ratios

In the event of a tiebreaker, the following criteria may be taken into consideration:

- Demonstrated Career or Life Interest
- Educational Sensibilities
- Behavioral and Social Indicators

Before submitting the ECS Preference Form (Will be sent out Thursday, September 16, due Monday, September 27) please note the following points.

1. Graduation from CSS is contingent upon each student completing and passing an ECS for each year of attendance at the Upper School. An ECS is equivalent to one (1) Carnegie unit of instruction (defined as 120 hours of contact time with an instructor). As such, each ECS is recorded on a student's transcript and counts towards the calculation of Grade Point Average.
2. Attendance is a critical component to the ECS experience. Missing just one half-day of an ECS is roughly equivalent to missing an entire week of a traditional 45-minute class period. Per the CSS Student/Parent Handbook, "excused absences that cause a student to miss significant portions of an ECS will be managed in a variety of ways but often involve supplementary, independent work and the design of alternative, relevant experiences by the students. The family will be expected to cover non-refundable course costs incurred by CSS on behalf of the student even if the student is unable to reap the benefits of the experience due to conditions beyond their control." In most cases, reservations for transportation and housing are difficult and costly to change, and penalty charges may become the responsibility of the family that has requested the change. Consider ECS preference rankings carefully and thoughtfully with regard to potential personal conflicts to *avoid making changes later*.
3. Students are encouraged to rank seminars based on individual interests and/or career ambitions, not according to social influences. It is our hope that students will submit placement rankings based on the alignment between their personal passion(s), intrigue, or value system and the topic that each ECS will explore.
4. At CSS, we use technology very intentionally to meet our educational objectives. School policies limit the use of personal tech devices in divisionally specific ways. In the Upper School, we generally emphasize responsible use. However, students cannot use phones during class other than use authorized by a teacher. ECSs represent a significant reduction

or a complete break from personal tech use for our students. We have observed (and research supports) that there are substantial benefits for personal social skills and group dynamics when students take a break from technology. Individual ECS instructors will review the specifics of their seminar cell phone policy during the parent meeting in November.

5. Costs are close approximations and could change slightly. Also, students tend to value ECS experiences more when they help pay for them. We encourage students to apply themselves during a summer or two to earn part of the cost of their eventual ECS. An ECS scholarship program does exist to support students in pursuing a topic area of passion or interest. [Applications](#) are due **Monday, September 27** by 10:00 p.m. Late submissions will not be accepted.
6. Students who have demonstrated behavioral problems at school may not be sent on national or international seminars. It may not be possible to reimburse families for costs incurred if a change in seminars must be made due to a disciplinary issue.
7. **This year's ECSs are designed to be flexible in nature, given the current COVID situation. Therefore, travel may or may not happen.**

Habitat

Instructors: John Longo, Jim Moulton

Expected Cost: \$250.00

Travel: Local, possible day trip to Denver

Essential question:

- What are the causes of homelessness in our community?
- What are the programs that can help people and how effective is each?
- What are the best solutions moving forward?

This local ECS explores the causes and conditions of homelessness in our society, as well as the programs and solutions to address this problem within our local community. The complexity of homelessness naturally brings in issues of poverty and hunger, mental health, substance abuse, transitional and affordable housing. Visits to and interviews with local service providers such as the Salvation Army Shelter, Marion House Soup Kitchen, Homeward Pikes Peak, Urban Peak, National Alliance for Mental Illness, and many others, form the core of our ECS investigations in the field. Readings, videos and independent research on a topic of each student's choice provide essential background information to understand what we are seeing on these visits. In addition, we participate in numerous service activities to aid families in need. If you are ready to step outside your comfort zone, learn about our "home" in a whole new way, and perhaps make a small difference in the lives of those who struggle with homelessness, this is the ECS for you.

Student interests that match this ECS:

Students interested in public policy, social issues, and service will find this ECS appealing.

Cell Phone Policy:

Depending on the circumstances, students may be asked to leave their cell-phones in class "basket," or to use them for a specific class purpose.

Puppets on a Plane: The World of Puppetry

Instructors: Hans Wolfe, Jonathan Andujar

Expected Cost: \$650-\$800

Travel: Local, possible day trip to Denver

Essential question:

- What is the significance and impact of the art of puppetry across world cultures, and how does that fit into our current culture, beliefs and discussion of both topical and historical issues?
- How is storytelling a major part of the cultural experience?
- How can we effectively express our most fantastical thoughts, while communicating with a broader audience about shared experiences, concerns and human struggles?

Course Description:

Puppetry has been a mainstay of cultural expression worldwide for thousands of years. Dating back to cave paintings and the earliest ceremonies involving masks of deities and animals, puppetry has allowed people to express sensitive and controversial material indirectly, invoking fantasy and fairy tale, epic and legend, criticism and heroism. Puppets were used in ancient China and Rome, invoking wonder and mystery. Modern puppeteers include advertisers, psychologists, political activists, entertainers, performance artists, and practitioners of many religions. Whether puppets are made for the hand, wires, strings, full bodies, sticks, stilts, or shadows, they stimulate wonder in the viewer, and provide an avenue to explore unworldly ideas and address challenging subjects. Why is this form of expression so enduring and captivating? As students research the history and psychology of puppetry, they blend the arts of puppet making with theatre in the creation of their own productions. Students invent plays, write scripts, and create stages and props for shows that will be presented in several on campus performances. Professional puppeteers work directly with the class to introduce content, materials and technique. Students should be prepared for hard work, an explosion of imagination, and being an integral part of a production team.

Student interests that match this ECS:

Performance, storytelling, collaboration, and hands-on making.

Cell Phone Policy:

Phones are not part of daily activities and should be stored safely away during this seminar.

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PLAN A: Servicio en la isla del encanto ECS: Service on the Enchanted Island ECS

Instructors: Marta Kunze and Amy Miller

Expected Cost: \$3,500-\$3,700

Dates of Travel: March 3rd-March 15th

Vaccination Policy: Global Works requires that all participants show proof of vaccination before travel.

Essential questions:

- 1- Why do many people consider Puerto Rico as the forgotten territory of the USA?
- 2- How do Puerto Ricans still face reconstructions from Hurricane Maria?
- 3- What must be done to help?

Course Description:

Located approximately 1,000 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, Puerto Rico is a Caribbean island and unincorporated territory of the United States. The blend of Spanish, Indian, and African influences gives Puerto Rico an international charm. It is easy to see why it attracts millions of visitors and is called “The Island of Enchantment” by locals. Not only does the country offer historical sites to visit, but also beautiful beaches and lush rainforests. We will partner with Global Works on this ECS. Global works has provided students with purposeful programs that foster learning-through-service projects since 1990. After arriving in Puerto Rico, students will help on home building projects in the community of Villa del Rio and two days before coming back home they will help the Tropic Ventures environmental service. Needless to say, students will also have fun activities such as a tour of El Morro and Old San Juan and a kayaking adventure at Bioluminescence Bay.

Student interests who match this ECS:

- Outdoor physical activities
- Community service
- Social justice
- History of Puerto Rico
- The human condition. Willingness to interact with people of a different culture
- Opportunity to practice Spanish with our guides and other Spanish speakers if they are Spanish students.

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Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phones will be collected before departure and will be given back before coming back to the mainland.

PLAN B: Service in NOLA: Discovering the Richness of New Orleans

Instructors: Marta Kunze and Amy Miller

Expected Cost: \$3,500-\$3,700

Dates of Travel: March 3rd-March 15th

Vaccination Policy: Global Works requires that all participants show proof of vaccination before travel.

Essential questions:

- 1- How does the history of New Orleans shape the culture there today -- from the French Quarter to Mardi Gras to civil rights and plantation history?
- 2- How are New Orleanians facing reconstruction from Hurricane Ida? How can we help?
- 3- How has climate change affected the swampland along the Gulf Coast?

Course Description:

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain about 105 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, the dynamic, vibrant city of New Orleans is the home to nearly 400,000 diverse people. This unique American city, also known as “The Big Easy,” is rich in its cross-cultural and multilingual heritage. NOLA offers historical sites, incredible food, and many opportunities to perform meaningful service due to the path of many hurricanes over the years, most recently in August 2021. As with PLAN A, we will partner with Global Works on this ECS. Global works has provided students with purposeful programs that foster learning-through-service projects since 1990. After arriving in New Orleans, students will become immersed in environmental and social service projects while learning about the rich history, challenges, food, and music of the city.

Student interests who match this ECS:

- Outdoor physical activities
- Community service
- Social justice
- History of New Orleans
- The human condition - willingness to interact with people of different cultures

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Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones will be collected before departure and will be given back before coming back to Colorado.

Spooks: The Art and Mathematics of Spycraft

Instructors: Dr. Gillon, Mr. Calhoun

Expected Cost: \$1250 - \$1500

Travel: D.C. - February 28 - March 4, 2022

Vaccination Policy: We highly recommend that students attending an out of state ECS be vaccinated. Unvaccinated students may participate but must show proof of a negative COVID test 2-3 days before departure and quarantine after their test is taken until the time of departure.

Essential question:

How do spies keep and break secrets? What are the mathematical techniques that can be used to secure information or to make seemingly secure information insecure? How is modern physics changing the future of spycraft and information security? How do you build an Enigma Machine?

Course Description:

Spy Games ECS introduces students to the art and science of cryptography, with WWI and WWII, and the Cold War serving as historical motivations. Not only will students learn the mathematics of cryptosystems used then and now, but students will also be tasked at building their own Enigma Machine. Students will visit the International Spy Museum in D.C., and throughout the course students will be engaged in spy games in which students are tasked with either keeping information safe or cracking their adversaries' codes. Furthermore, the course also attempts to illuminate the phenomenon of the spy in popular culture, from the classic spy thrillers of the early twentieth century to the literature and cinema of the Cold War. And the course gives equal attention to intelligence coups (for example, the brilliant achievements of the codebreakers at Bletchley Park during the Second World War) and intelligence failures (from the era of Stalin and Hitler to our own time).

Student interests that match this ECS:

Puzzles, mathematics, engineering, history.

Cell Phone Policy:

Student cell phone use is discouraged. Phones will not be allowed during class time.

Tall Ships

Instructors: Greg Johnson and Jennifer Hedden

Expected Cost: \$4,200 - \$4,350

Travel: US Virgin Islands. Depart Wednesday evening, March 2, 2022. Return very late on Monday, March 14, 2022 (likely arrive CSS in the early hours of Tuesday, March 15)

Vaccination Policy: World Ocean School requires that all students show proof of vaccination for COVID before travel.

Essential question:

What cultural and scientific knowledge and practices are required to successfully navigate, maintain, and operate a Tall Ship at sea?

Course Description: Set sail on the Roseway, a 137-foot, two-masted, gaff-rigged schooner. The ship sails the U.S. Virgin Islands, departing from St. Croix. While aboard for 10 days, students learn the seamanship skills, coastal navigation, small boat handling, marine biology, oceanography, and historical and cultural interpretations that have been projected onto the sea. As our sail progresses, there is a distinct focus on leadership. The partnership organization, World Ocean School, promotes the concepts of ship, shipmate, and self; therefore, students must take care of the ship, their shipmates, and themselves. The students participate as crew members, assisting in raising and setting the sails, manning the helm, calculating and charting the course, standing watch, and performing hourly boat checks during the day and nightly on a rotational basis. Daily lessons also include the readings and discussions of several tales of the sea, physics of sailing, wave mechanics, ship operations, snorkeling, and possibly sea kayaking. While sailing, a variety of local stops further connect the students to marine life, biology, sea-life, and the history of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Critical to the ECS is teamwork, cooperation, responsibility, and environmental stewardship.

Pertinent information related to this ECS:

- students must be able to swim and pass a swim test. This test will take place in a local swimming pool. The student must swim, unaided, one full lap and also tread water for 1 minute.
- Families should discuss measures to prevent/alleviate sea-sickness with their family physician
- Students must be physically able to participate in the operations of the ship, to include but not limited to hauling lines, cleaning the ship, hiking on possible rough terrain, swimming in the open ocean, snorkeling in the ocean, kayaking in the ocean.

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- World Ocean School's policy on cell phones will be followed. Cell phones are not allowed on the ship, therefore, students will leave them in Colorado Springs. Cell phone use will also be limited during the local portion of this ECS.
- Proof of identity, to be examined by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during travel to USVI. A current passport is the preferred form of identification. Alternative valid documentation includes those found on the [St. Croix tourism website](#).
- If you own a snorkel and mask, please bring them.

Student interests that match this ECS:

- outdoor physical activity and hard work
- living on the ocean and oceanography
- marine biology
- physics and applied math
- history of the US Virgin Islands

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones not allowed on the travel portion of the ECS. Cell phones gathered during most of the school day while on campus.

Yellowstone

Instructors: Natalie Hanson and Max Fruge

Expected Cost: \$3250-\$3500

Travel: March 5-13, 2022

Vaccination Policy: We highly recommend that students attending an out of state ECS be vaccinated. Unvaccinated students may participate but must show proof of a negative COVID test 2-3 days before departure and quarantine after their test is taken until the time of departure.

Essential question:How are ecological data collected, analyzed, and used to make decisions for our public lands?

Course Description: The grandeur of Yellowstone in winter provides a dramatic setting in which to learn about and take part in the unique, extraordinary winter ecology of the world's first national park. The park sits within the caldera of an ancient supervolcano, and it has endless forests defended on all sides by majestic mountains. Yellowstone boasts upwards of 10,000 geothermal features including boiling springs, fumaroles, mud pots, and more geysers than the rest of the world combined. Yellowstone is no ordinary wilderness. Snowshoeing and hiking will be a typical and physically demanding mode of transportation in Yellowstone. You can expect a potentially harsh winter environment, made accessible in part by your willingness to bring and use proper winter gear.

While in Yellowstone we will track animals and collect data on their movements and demographics. With luck, we will also observe wolves in the Lamar Valley. Using our observations and accumulated data, we will propose and attempt to answer ecological research questions. Throughout the course, we will hear from researchers and stakeholders about the controversies surrounding bison and wolf reintroductions. Within the comfortable confines of the cabins or our campus, we will read, discuss, and debate various public policy choices that impact the management of our public lands.

Student interests that match this ECS: ecology, wildlife, hiking, snowshoeing, public policy

Cell Phone Policy: No phones allowed in the classroom or while traveling.

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