NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Astronomy in Context – In Culture and Outdoor Classrooms

Credit points: 5 (2.5 ECTS) Dates: 17 – 21 July 2017 Cost: £550

This course is for students with an interest in astronomy. You should have the required English language skills.

Overview and aims

This course is an exploration of how astronomy is part of our lives and culture. Case studies will introduce you to Cultural Astronomy. You will develop a deeper understanding of the outdoor classroom, the Education for Sustainable Development and place experience in the light of astronomy and phenomenological methods. It aims to deepen your knowledge and skills in order to carry out safe field trips and to gain the most from such work, and to deepen your skills in personalising planetarium software (STELLARIIUM) by creating landscapes. At the end of the course you will have an awareness of the rich cultural context in which astronomy is situated.

On this course you will explore:
1) Outdoor classroom in Astronomy – Risk Assessments, links with ESD, experiential approach;
2) Stellarium – creating landscapes, importing and aligning them;

Indicative reading

The Intimate Universe: How the stars are closer than you think - M Kukula

Videos:
The Prehistoric Skyscapes western Iberian project - F Silva
Archaeoastronomy in Society (Part 1 and Part 2) – D Brown
AICT: SKA Shared Sky Exhibit Iziko 2015

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- Recognise the astronomical potential within the outdoor classroom;
- Understand risk assessments and application of outdoor fieldtrips within teaching;
- List examples of astronomy in everyday life and culture in general;
- Explore sites using multidisciplinary approaches and phenomenology;
- Develop landscapes for stellarium and gather and evaluate numerical and phenomenological data in the field.
Teaching and learning

This course will be taught via:
- Lectures
- Workshops
- Lab experiments
- Fieldwork

Total hours: 30

In addition to the contact hours (25) you should expect to spend a small amount of time before and during the course on preparation and directed reading, field work and action learning (5 hours).

Assessment methods

50% – reflective diary
50% - project

Final Assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

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