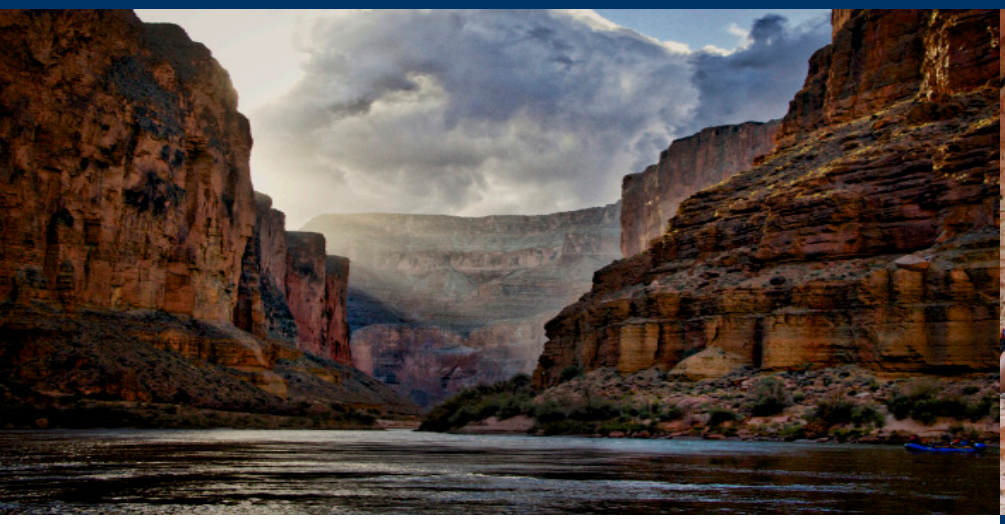
Grand Canyon Semester

August 23, 2018-December 9, 2018

Boundaries and Borders:
Limitless Exploration of Environment, People, and Place



The 2018 Grand Canyon Semester investigates the landscape, cultures, and politics of the greater Grand Canyon region. The Grand Canyon Semester offers a life-changing learning experience in the high mountains of northern Arizona and the deep canyon country of the Colorado Plateau. Students with a wide variety of interests and passions come from across the United States and around the world to join faculty in the natural sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities to investigate how humans impact, manage, interact with, and value the natural world. On backcountry field trips, in classrooms and art galleries, around campfires, in traditional hogans, and floating down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, we confront key environmental and social challenges in these diverse natural and cultural landscapes.

GCS was an incredible experience that taught me not only to think outside the box about many different kinds of issues currently surrounding the Colorado plateau, but to fully observe my surroundings in a way that I had never thought about before. And because of my involvement in GCS, I was able to get an internship at Grand Canyon National Park, which helped me with my college degree.
-- Anna GCS 2014

The Grand Canyon Semester's broad theme, Boundaries and Borders, evokes a deep exploration of the complex issues that influence and shape natural and cultural worlds. Using interdisciplinary and experiential approaches, students will explore the economic, political, artistic, ecological, social, and spiritual forces of the greater Grand Canyon.

Honors students and honors-eligible students from across the country are encouraged to apply.

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY | Honors College

NCHC

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

GRAND CANYON TRUST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Dates: August 23 to December 9, 2018

Total Semester Cost - $9,201

Covers fees, tuition, housing, insurance (required of students who cannot show proof of existing medical insurance) for the term as well as transportation and food during field experiences.
Financial aid is available.

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Grand Canyon Semester 2018 Courses

Students will be registered for five Grand Canyon Semester courses. These seminars interconnect through content; projects; and site-specific, place-based learning experiences. The semester is centered on Humans and the Environment, which is part of the Applied Core at NAU. The Integrative Seminar and Directed Study complement the courses in the Applied Core by providing students the opportunity to contextualize their experience and do in-depth study.

Applied Core: Humans and the Environment

ANT 306H: Peoples of the Southwest
3 credit hours in Anthropology, Native American Studies, or Humanities
Social Political Worlds, Liberal Studies: Critical Thinking
Students will be immersed into contemporary southwestern cultural traditions.

ENV 250H: Environmental Conservation on the Colorado Plateau
4 credit hours in Natural History, Environmental Science, or Ecology
Lab Science, Liberal Studies: Scientific Inquiry
Students will study the intersection of natural history, geology, and ecology.

POS 359H: Environmental Policy
3 credit hours in Political Science or Environmental Science
Social and Political Worlds, Liberal Studies: Critical Thinking
Students will interact with primary stakeholders to understand the complexity of managing one of the world's most valuable treasures.

HUM 399H: Integrative Seminar: Grand Canyon as Text
3 credit hours in Anthropology, English, Environmental Science, Humanities
Students integrate their learning while cultivating their sense of place through City as Text personal reflective writing and creative projects, as well as learning from the creative work of other artists, writers, and explorers of the Grand Canyon region. Using creative and non-fiction writing, journaling, art, and multi-media, students will document their own personal Grand Canyon experiences.

HON 485: Directed Study: Undergraduate Independent Research Project
4 credit hours in the field of the research topic or Independent Study
Students are guided as they undertake original research that incorporates course work, their interests, and fieldwork. Faculty mentors assist in formulating appropriate topics, identifying available resources, and engaging students in productive writing strategies. Students interested in creative projects expected to produce an analytical written document. The culmination of this course is a public symposium in which the research projects are presented and discussed.

Questions about the 2018 Grand Canyon Semester may be addressed to Academic Director Ted Martinez at theodore.martinez@nau.edu.

Apply online at nau.edu/gcs.

Early Application Deadline: December 1, 2017
Application Deadline: February 15, 2018

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