This two-week field course will explore the biological and political issues surrounding the national parks. Students will travel to Great Smoky Mountains and Yellowstone National Parks and explore unique issues to each reserve. A comparative approach will help gain an appreciation for the diversity and complexity of the national parks, both as a natural habitat, and as a governmental program. The emphasis will be on engaged, hands-on learning: students will spend time in the parks, visit with park stakeholders and experience wildlife, rather than reading about it from a classroom in Cullowhee. Permission of the instructors is required. A mandatory organizational meeting will be held in late February.

CONTACT

Christopher Cooper (political science) at 828–227–3861 or ccooper@email.wcu.edu; or Sean O’Connell (biology) at 828–227–2203 or soconnell@email.wcu.edu.

Estimated cost: $987, includes lodging, food, and teaching materials (excluding one modestly priced text). Half of the fee is due in March and is non-refundable. Does not include tuition or airfare. Interested students should sign up for either the biology or political science section, not both.