

**McMASTER UNIVERSITY**  
**Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology**

<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Subtropical Ecology: Biodiversity and Its Sustainable Utilization</b>
<b>Instructor(s):</b>	J.P. Xu (McMaster, 905-525-9140 Ext. 27934, <a href="mailto:jpxu@mcmaster.ca">jpxu@mcmaster.ca</a> ); Jim Quinn (McMaster University, 905-525-9140 Ext. 23194, <a href="mailto:quinn@mcmaster.ca">quinn@mcmaster.ca</a> )
<b>Dates:</b>	Wednesday, August 1 – Tuesday, August 14, 2018; 3 units credit
<b>Location:</b>	The City of Kunming and Ailao Mountain Subtropical Ecology Station. Both sites are in Yunnan Province, southwestern China and they are about 450km from each other (~ 6hr drive).
<b>Cost:</b>	<p>\$1,850 [\$350 deposit to home university; \$1,500 balance]  Included: Local transportation within Yunnan, food, lodging, experimental supplies, and park entries, during the two weeks.</p> <p>Excluded: (i) Tuition at home university, (ii) Airfare from Toronto to Kunming, Yunnan and back (to be arranged by student, estimated at ~\$1,200); (iii) VISA application fee to China (~\$150); (iv) Overseas' travel and health insurance (check with parents' plan); (v) Sightseeing in other parts of China before or after the course (cost varies)</p>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Students should be finished with one year of university education and should have taken at least one course in general biology. Students should be prepared for moderately strenuous hikes at a relatively high altitude (2000-3500m above sea level)
<b>Enrolment:</b>	18 (8 reserved for McMaster University); 10 minimum
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This course has two broad objectives: (a) to gain a first-hand experience and understanding of biodiversity in subtropical ecosystems, and (b) to learn and evaluate ecosystem services. To achieve the first objective, students will be exposed to the diversity of ecological niches in the subtropics, and the diversity of plants, insects (including edible insects farms), and fungi around the Ailao Mountain Ecological Station of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. To achieve the second objective, we will use a mixed approach of literature presentations, surveys and field observations, and problem-based learning (PBL) to understand biodiversity assessment, the use of biodiversity by the indigenous people, the threats that the biodiversity faces, and how best to maintain their sustainable utilizations. A series of papers relevant to this course will be distributed to students by May 2018 to familiarize students with the background and issues to be discussed.</p>
<b>Evaluation:</b>	Tentatively consists of the following: (i) An individual presentation on a paper related to biodiversity and subtropical ecosystem (15%); (ii) Field journal and field records (completeness 5%, neatness and readability 10%, accuracy and scientific value 10%; creativity, application and reflection 5%); (iii) A lab report based on the field survey data (25%); (iv) Participation of field work and discussions (15%); and (v) an exit oral interview (15%)

\*\*\*\$350 Deposit is due at time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs.

Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.