Student-Curated Informal Learning and Engagement Spaces (SCI-LEnS)

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Museum exhibits, design principles and practices in museum settings

Learning

#4 Outreach Program Development and Guided Learning

Communicating complex material, communicating with K-12 audiences

#3 Exhibit Design and other Self-Directed Learning

Communicating science in Action - working with media

#2 Communicating science in Action - working with media

Museum exhibits, design principles and practices in museum settings

#1 Major topics in science communication

Scientists as storytellers, understanding your audience, communicating complex material, communicating with K-12 audiences

Sure! The course will...

Train the next generation of researchers to be dynamic and engaging science communicators.

Equip graduate students to deliver complex, cutting-edge science to public audiences, peers, colleagues and the broader science community.

Bridge the gap between complex scientific concepts and the public, bringing UBC research to public audiences in informal learning environments.

Centre the student learning on museum visits, case studies, class discussion, collaboration, and dialogue with experts.

what else can students expect?

what is SCI-LEnS?

This project aims to produce a unique graduate course to UBC aimed at training science graduate students in effective science communication and outreach, with a particular focus on utilizing museums as spaces for exploring best practices for sharing science with the public.

Please share our course modules

#1 Major topics in science communication

Scientists as storytellers, understanding your audience, communicating complex material, communicating with K-12 audiences

#2 Communicating science in Action - working with media

Digital media (podcasts, videos, social media), interview skills and practice

#3 Exhibit Design and other Self-Directed Learning

Museum exhibits, design principles and practices in museum settings

#4 Outreach Program Development and Guided Learning

Outreach planning and implementation, intentional design, object-centered learning

Sure! The course will...

that sounds cool!

tell me more about the course!

our team

Dr. Kirsten Hodge
Director, Pacific Museum of Earth, EOAS

Dr. Laura Lukes
Assistant Professor, EOAS

Dr. Shandin Pete
Assistant Professor, EOAS

Dr. David Anderson
Professor, EDCP

Oli Beeby
4th Year, Bachelor of Media Studies

Ruth Moore
MSc, Student, Geophysics

Raveen Sidhu
4th Year BSc, Microbiology + Geognosy

Peer-to-peer teaching

Students will lead the class in discussion and exploration of course learning topics, encouraging active participation and critical thinking.

Class participation: Students will complete a self-evaluation on their participation based on specific criteria to justify their self-assessment scores.

Elevator Pitch: Students give a 3-minute research pitch with one visual slide, then evaluate peers. Pitch is based on feedback, self-evaluation, and module 1 learnings.

Student-facilitated Seminar: Students pick a syllabus topic, summarize a recent article, present with an activity and discussion. Aims to enrich class understanding.

Exhibit proposal & outreach activity: Students create exhibit proposal and STEM outreach activity to be showcased at a student-curated event in Pacific Museum of Earth for UBC community and public.

Student-curated outreach event: Students will showcase their exhibit activity at the Pacific Museum of Earth, sharing their science stories with audiences of all ages – a unique opportunity to engage with the public in a fun and non-imitidating space.

how will student learning be assessed?

Visit our partners!

Public Engagement: The course aims to shift the lens through which scientists engage with the public, inviting the community into the museum to share science.

Cross-Faculty Collaboration: The project brings together experts in museum outreach, education, and exhibit design to strengthen the course's development and sustainability.

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge: UBC Indigenous scholars provide guidance on incorporating Indigenous knowledge into science museums.

Pedagogical Exploration: Students will explore the pedagogical dimensions of museum exhibitions and work with scholars on contemporary exhibition development and educational messaging.

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Our expected impact

Experiential Learning: The course emphasizes hands-on learning, with students creating and building as core learning objectives.

Student-Curated Informal Learning Space: An annual outreach event at UBC highlighting cutting-edge science, inspiring visitors to discover the value of science.

Cross-Faculty Collaboration: The project brings together experts in museum outreach, education, and exhibit design to strengthen the course's development and sustainability.

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge: UBC Indigenous scholars provide guidance on incorporating Indigenous knowledge into science museums.

Public Engagement: The course aims to shift the lens through which scientists engage with the public, inviting the community into the museum to share academic endeavors.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support for this project provided by UBC Vancouver students via the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund.

Milestones

Build modules!

Refine module development!

Kick off event!

Visit our partners!

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