

May term at Mammoth Cave National Park

Overview: In this 1-week experiential course you will camp at 3 different state and national parks and explore 2 different cave systems in Kentucky. You will learn about the U.S. national park system in general and about Mammoth Cave National Park in particular. During the week you will have free time and opportunities to choose **from several outdoor activities, such as caving, white water rafting, hiking, horseback riding, and biking.** You will be traveling in a Milligan van to Kentucky and setting up tents at 3 different group camp sites. You can enroll in the course for 1 credit hour, which will involve minimal reading, and reflective journaling during the trip. If you enroll for 3 hours, you will be expected to do a bit more preparation before you leave, reflective journaling, and then write a paper related to a topic of your choice after you return from the trip (due May 17th).

What is the itinerary?

Saturday, April 27th Depart Milligan by 4 PM	Drive 1.5 hours to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park to camp
Sunday, April 28 th	Explore Cumberland Gap National Historic Park: visitor's center and take a 2-hour cave tour. Depart for Mammoth Cave N.P. Arrive between 5-6:30 PM
Monday, April 29th:	Two group cave walking tours inside Mammoth Cave National Park
Tuesday, April 30 th	Choose your own adventure(s) (kayaking, hiking, or biking)
Wednesday, May 1st	Optional Wild cave tour (3-4 hours guided spelunking and educational tour in caves near Mammoth Cave N.P. or some other activity of your choosing.
Thursday, May 2 nd	Travel to Cumberland Falls State Park (~ 2 hours away) and set up camp (Hiking likely)
Friday, May 3 rd	Optional whitewater rafting trip on the Big South Fork or hiking or horseback riding
Saturday, May 4 th	Pack up camp and drive home (~ 3 hours). Arrive back at Milligan by noon.

COSTS

Cost estimates are based on 10 students (could vary slightly based on enrollment)	
Tuition	\$125 for 1 credit hour or \$375 for 3 credit hours
Transportation	\$100
Camping Fees	\$50
Mandatory Activity Fees	\$100
Total	\$375 (1 credit hour) or \$625 (3 credit hour)
Optional activities with fees	
You will have to choose at least 1 of these adventure activities. After selecting 1 of these, you can fill your time with hiking if you prefer to limit your out-of-pocket costs. Availability of activities will depend on student interest, time, and opportunity.	
Prices do not include taxes and are based on info available January 2024.	
Horseback riding	\$40
Wild Cave Tour (Spelunking)	\$43
Kayaking/Canoeing	\$55-60
Regular or ebike rental	\$25-\$45
Aerial challenge course	\$45
All day whitewater rafting trip	\$160

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY APRIL 1ST

To reserve your spot, email both Joy Drinnon, jdrinnon@milligan.edu and Rebecca Sapp, rlsapp@milligan.edu

Then, register for the course. A deposit of \$100 will be needed in early April to cover some up-front costs. Final payment due before we leave.

More stuff to know:

- If you are a residential student, you will be able to stay in the dorm through Friday, April 26th but will have to be ready to move out immediately when you return. Please plan accordingly.
- We will stop at a grocery store so you can purchase your own food supplies for the week. We will try to cut food costs by sharing in some camp meals. We will have a cooler and bring cooking supplies to heat food. There is a little extra added into mandatory activity fee to cover the cost of purchasing some shared items and incidentals as needed (e.g., firewood & ice).
- We will provide the tents. You will need to bring your own bedding (sleeping bag, mat, etc.).
 - If you don't have a sleeping bag, Dr. Drinnon has several extras, and you could borrow one.
- Space in the vans is limited, so pack only what you need.
- Pack for fluctuating temperatures and a variety of activities (water, hiking, caving, etc.).
 - If you do the wild caving tour you will need shoes with plenty of tread (e.g., hiking boots) and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- There are bath and shower stations at the campsites but expect conditions to be primitive. You might even have to pay a small fee to use shower stations at Mammoth Cave.
- Bring some cash because we may not have access to ATMs and you may need cash at the camp stores/showers.
- You'll have plenty of free time to journal about your trip.
- Wifi may be limited while in the parks.
- Portable power charges are a good idea. We will have limited access to outlets and will have to share the car's charger when traveling.
- A syllabus for the course will be available by mid March.
- For more information, email Joy Drinnon, jdrinnon@milligan.edu or Rebecca Sapp, rlsapp@milligan.edu