



# SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC INTERFACE

## Through Science & the Public Interface ONLINE Courses

### YOU CAN:

- Tackle controversy through science preparedness, audience awareness, and cutting-edge techniques.
- Bolster readiness to engage the public about complex and controversial science topics.
- Apply learning at your work site, honing skills through self-reflection and peer/instructional support.
- Join other informal science educators, interpreters, and museum professionals in an online learning community—meet colleagues who will inspire you to never let fear or uncertainty stop you in your tracks.
- Enroll in distance learning courses at **1-credit workshop level** or **3-credit graduate course level** at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA).

### CONNECTING TO SCIENCE: Communicating Science 101

*Fall 2014, McBroom (SFA), Tues & Thurs, 12:30-1:30 pm Central*

What makes science controversial? Probe the inner-workings of science, explore controversial science topics, examine public understanding of science, and try your hand at strategies to improve science communication effectiveness. Touchstone topics include held values, public trust, and the language of conservation. Building a 21st century communication toolkit starts here...

### CONNECTING TO PLACE: Facilitating Place-based Experiences

*Fall 2014, Smaldone (WVU), Tues & Thurs, 2-3 pm Central*

Take an in-depth look at citizen science and techniques that anchor science learning to place. Help audiences cultivate place connections, care, and stewardship through immersive experiences. Learn what makes immersive experiences powerful and how to capitalize on that power...

### CONNECTING TO EACH OTHER:

#### Facilitating Dialogue & Mutual Understanding

*Spring 2015, Coble (SFA), Tues & Thurs, 2-3 pm Central*

Explore communication techniques that connect us to each other through the lens of four interrelated arcs: the arc of informal interactions, the arc of crucial conversations, the arc of group collaboration, and the arc of dialogue. Engaging audiences in co-created experiences can lead to better questions, more relevant framing, enhanced respect, and a platform for action.



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**CONNECTING TO  
COMMUNITY:**  
Civic Engagement &  
Community-based  
Collaboration

Spring 2015, Barrie (UNLV), Tues &  
Thurs, 11-noon Central

Examine strategies to move audiences from awareness to action through collaborative, community-based projects. Explore how co-created experiences enrich civic learning and build civic leadership. Tie local projects to the global community in meaningful ways...

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**“CONNECTING CAPSTONE”:** Tie all your learning together, applying techniques to connect diverse audiences to *science, place, each other, and community*. Participants will submit and implement a project plan, presenting their results at the end of the term.

A Culminating Project at YOUR SITE  
[Summer 2015](#)

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**WE ARE PILOT TESTING THESE COURSES – WE WANT YOU!**

With IMLS and partner funding, SFA will provide tuition support for as many applicants as possible with preference for those who enroll in the 5-course sequence. *See below for course and registration details...*

**Getting Enrolled...It's easy!**

1. Fill out the [online application](#) to become a post-baccalaureate student. This allows you to “just take a class” or pursue the 5-course (15 cr.) sequence as a *certificate program*. Choose “Resource Interpretation” for Question #17 on the application.
2. Pay the \$50 application fee.
3. Send *original transcript* showing proof of bachelor’s degree from an accredited institute to SFA’s [Graduate School](#). *Electronic or mail submissions are permissible.*
4. Contact Dr. Theresa Coble (817-235-7842, [tcoble@sfasu.edu](mailto:tcoble@sfasu.edu)) at your earliest convenience to be added to the *prospective course participant list*. Please let Dr. Coble know your name, employer and work location. During the week of August 11, Ms. Mary Ramos (936-468-1365, [mramos@sfasu.edu](mailto:mramos@sfasu.edu)) will provide you with an enrollment permit, and assist you with the enrollment and billing process as needed. Here’s SFA’s [tuition calculator](#) to help you estimate enrollment costs.
5. *Please complete steps 1-4 above by August 18, 2014, if possible.*



**Applying for Tuition Support...Send us a request letter.**

On August 18, 2014, by close of business, send a letter or official email request to Dr. Theresa Coble ([tcoble@sfasu.edu](mailto:tcoble@sfasu.edu)), the Principal Investigator for the Science and the Public Interface project, asking to be considered for tuition support.

IMPORTANT: In your letter, indicate whether you plan to take the complete 5-course sequence. If not, specify which courses you plan to enroll in. Provide information about your current employer, job title, work duties, and why you are interested in these courses. Finally, let us know whether you will enroll at the 1-credit workshop or the 3-credit graduate course level. Both credit levels require synchronous and asynchronous participation (i.e., face-to-face webinars and offline work). Requirements at the 1-credit level are reduced.

With assistance from our partners (e.g., USFWS, NPS), we anticipate providing well over \$30,000 in tuition assistance during the 2014-2015 academic year. For some 3-credit course enrollments, tuition support may defer but not completely cover the cost of course enrollment. Email notification of tuition assistance will be provided by August 21, 2014. We seek to accommodate as many qualified participants as possible.

**Classes Begin Last Week in August—we hope you'll dive in!**

In recent months, our project team—including all the partners identified below AND MORE—have developed state-of-the-art curriculum and distance learning opportunities. Your participation at this stage ensures that in their final form, the courses will meet participant needs *and* exceed participant expectations.

All courses will be offered in conjunction with the M.S. in Resource Interpretation (MSRI) program at SFA. Thus, all five courses may be applied to MSRI degree program requirements. SFA and our proud partners are always learning, growing, and striving to meet your needs, and through you, to change the world.

*If you have questions, or would like to discuss course content, enrollment options, tuition support, or any other aspect of these pilot courses, please call or text Dr. Theresa Coble at 817-235-7842.*

