Welcome to the UGA Spring Study Abroad

Field Studies in Natural Resources: Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment

GEOG 4271/6271W (3 credits)

This is a sample syllabus intended as a general guide only and deviations may be necessary (a final syllabus will be included in the course-book or available by contacting the office)

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to introduce you to a number of geographic concepts which will help you better understand Australia and New Zealand and their place in the world. Learning to think geographically is an important skill, for it helps us understand the interrelationships between places—something which is becoming increasingly important as our world is connected together in new and varied ways through contemporary processes such as globalization. Thus, the course will NOT be geared towards simply memorizing where places are. Rather, we will focus upon understanding and explaining some of the political, historical, and economic relationships that bind people together, even though they may live many thousands of miles apart.

The fact that we are in Australia and New Zealand means that the course will, naturally, focus upon issues which will allow you both to understand Australia and New Zealand better but also to learn some key concepts which you can apply in a whole host of other disciplines and contexts. Primarily we will touch upon four main topics during the course, these being:

1. Basic geographic concepts concerning how we think about the geographical relationships between places and how those relationships are represented visually through such spatial technologies as maps. Thus, for instance, we will ponder why Australia and New Zealand are usually placed in the corners of world maps which focus upon Europe and/ or North America and what this means for the way in which we think about Australasia.
2. Issues of cultural conflicts and how these are played out spatially. In particular, we will explore the concept of the “cultural landscape” and how this is shaped by various political and economic power relations. For example, we will examine processes of place-naming and how the practice of naming places in Australia and New Zealand after British historical figures and places represents a type of ideological colonization of the landscape. As you can imagine, such a political project of renaming places after British figures and places has had the effect of erasing Aboriginal/Maori names from the landscape, a process which carries with it all sorts of implications for contemporary politics in Australia/New Zealand.
3. Basic demographic measures and how we can use these to understand what is happening in different population groups. We will specifically focus upon population pyramids and how to interpret them.
4. An overview of recent Australian demographic history and how processes such as immigration, economic restructuring, and natural resource exploitation in the interior of the continent are shaping patterns of population change.

Course Credit

Credit is offered for 3 semester hours at the undergraduate level (4271) or graduate level (6271) in GEOG (Geography).

Graduate and Honors Option Credit

Honors students with 60 or more academic credit hours (including AP, IB, and joint enrollment credit hours) and a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA may take courses at the 6000-level. (Honors students with less than 60 hours may still register for 6271 courses if they will have 60 or more hours completed by the end of the semester prior to studying abroad.) Please follow these steps:

1. Download and complete the Graduate Course Application form (https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current_students/courses_and_adv/GraduateCourseApplication.pdf). Bring this form to the Discover Abroad office, and we will verify your GPA and credit hours. The Lead Instructor of the program and the head of the department of the prefix for which you are registering (e.g., Anthropology for ANTH 6271, Geography for GEOG 6271, etc) must sign this form.
2. Return the completed form to Moore College. The Honors program will verify the information on the form and add your name to the access list for the graduate-level course, thus allowing you to register. You need to complete one form for each separate course you are requesting for Honors credit.
3. There are additional requirements for graduate credit. See "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" below. Questions about graduate course credit may be directed to the Honors Program (honors@uga.edu), Tel: 706.542.6938.

Honors students may alternatively obtain honors credit for 4271 with an Honors Option. Please follow these steps:

1. Download and complete the Honors Option Application form (the instructor must sign this) (https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current_students/courses_and_adv/honors_option_app.pdf)
2. Submit Part I of the form to Moore College for Honors program approval prior to the start of your study abroad course. You need to complete one form for each course.
3. There are additional requirements for Honors Option credit. See "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option Credit" below.
4. Complete Part II of the Honors Option form at the end of your course after submitting your additional Honors requirement to your professor. Your instructor must sign off on Part II and submit the form to the Honors program (honors@uga.edu) for approval, Fax: 706.542.6993.

Prerequisites

All students in good academic standing are eligible to take the course. There are no academic prerequisites, however, some activities will require a level of physical exertion and may span a broad climatic gradient requiring certain gear (refer to the Program Manual).

Attendance

Punctual attendance at all scheduled program–related activities is required, including group meetings, discussions, field excursions, as well as lectures and any other scheduled activities. Participation in educational
field activities (such as hiking, snorkeling, swimming, etc.) is voluntary and at the discretion of the student; however, should you wish not to participate you must inform the instructor and an alternate non-field activity will be assigned. An excused absence or decision not to participate in one or any of these field activities will not affect your course grade. During the field studies, no student may leave the group without the consent of the faculty supervisor. Unless an absence is approved by one of the instructors, students will lose 10% of their final grade for each day or part-day they fail to participate. Unexcused absences or chronic late arrival to program activities may be grounds for dismissal from the program (refer to the Program Manual for further details).

Late and Missed Assignments

Because of the nature of this course and the tight schedule, assignments are not accepted late without prior approval from the instructor.

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in the University's Culture of Honesty policy (www.uga.edu/honesty). All students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) award of a failing grade for the course, suspension, notification placed on the student's transcript of their having been found guilty of cheating, and expulsion from the university, and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the University Academic Policy Panel.

Special Accommodations

Any student(s) who require special accommodation(s) or other requirements in this course must contact the instructor before or at the UGA on-campus orientation and register with UGA Disability Resource Center (www.drc.uga.edu). Some activities include moderate exercise, such as hiking and snorkeling.

Course-book

You are required to bring a laptop or notebook with Microsoft Word software (ipads, kindles, or other similar electronic reading devices are not acceptable for course assignments). The course-book will be provided electronically via jump drive, which is available for purchase at Bel-Jean’s Copy/Print Service, 163 East Broad St, Athens, GA 30601. To purchase, please order online from http://www.bel-jean.com/study-abroad-uga.php, via phone at 706.548.3648 or via email at campusrep@bel-jean.com. The program accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items and we recommend that you consider purchasing insurance for any expensive personal items before bringing them on the course.

The following readings are included:

Readings as assigned in the field modules packet.
Readings as handed out in lectures.

Course Requirements

Essay question (40%)

This paper will be assigned in-country and is an overnight writing exercise during the Geography course.

Population pyramid exercise (40%)

This demographic analysis is assigned in-country and due at the end of the Geography course.

Field modules (20%)

The field modules are location-based questions to be answered as individually written 250-word essays, peer-reviewed essays, group debates, site quizzes, and/or research projects (due at intervals throughout the program – see the itinerary). Refer to the Field Modules Introduction and Overview for details on assessment expectations and submission requirements for each of the various forms of modules.

Additional Assignment for Graduate or Honors Option Credit

Graduate credit for the course requires both of the following: (1) the quality of the presentations, written exam material, and project assignments will be of a higher quality than at the undergraduate level. Accordingly, written material and project assignments will receive more rigorous grading than at the undergraduate level. (2) An integrative essay that clearly demonstrates an ability to synthesize concepts and material across the study abroad program using real-world scenarios and local (i.e., country-specific) research that builds upon the material learned in the field and class environments.

The essay is to be 500 typed words (excluding references and any appendices) in Arial 9.5 point font (single-spaced) and emailed as one electronic (Word or .pdf) file (titled “your last and first name graduate credit”) to the instructor within four (4) weeks of the completion of the program. (Failure to meet a pass grade for the assignment(s) and/or submit the assignment(s) by the due date may result in an incomplete grade.) Include the date, as well as your first and last name on the header of the file. You will be expected to include external citations (which must be fully referenced), and to write in a well executed, grammatically correct style. Please arrange to meet with the instructor to identify and confirm an essay topic.

Grade Assessment

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A  93 –100 percent
A-  89.5 – 92.9 percent
B+  87 – 89.4 percent
B  83 – 86.9 percent
B-  79.5 – 82.9 percent
C+  77 – 79.4 percent
C  73 – 76.0 percent
C-  69.5 – 72.9 percent
D  59.5 - 69.4 percent
F  below 59.4 percent
Course Itinerary

Refer to the sample itineraries available online. Final itineraries will be distributed on arrival in-country or contact the office for the most recent version.