

Bula and Welcome to the UGA Fiji Study Abroad in Service-Learning

Field Studies in Sustainable Development: Service-Learning

FANR 4273/6273S (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)

Lead Instructor: TBA
Program Director: Dr. Michael Tarrant, Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA, tarrant@uga.edu
Office Address: *Discover Abroad*
Building Four, Room 102
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
Athens, GA 30602-2152
Telephone: 706-542-9713
Website: www.discoverabroad.uga.edu
Contact Email: discoverabroad@uga.edu

Course Description

This course explores issues of sustainable development through service-learning activities in Fiji. Using key concepts of significant learning, entrepreneurship, leadership, and personal development, students will engage in facilitated activities that range from ecotourism business ventures to water management and environmental conservation to coral reef monitoring. This course combines community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility. The course meets the UGA Service Learning requirement.

Course Objectives

By the end of the program students will:

1. Understand issues of sustainability, and the complex relationships between human societies and their natural environments, from multiple disciplinary perspectives;
2. Know and appreciate the impacts of human actions on natural systems and human responses to those changes, using case examples;
3. Develop an understanding of the relationship among tourism entrepreneurship, education, conservation, and the environment;
4. Enhance their understanding through personal development of the challenges and opportunities as leaders and how these lessons relate to their own life and work;
5. Examine the connections between leadership and personal development.
6. Conduct yourself in a manner consistent with Discover Abroad's Professional, Academic, and Ethical Code of Conduct (refer to the *Program Manual* for a description and course-related implications).

Course Credit

Credit is offered for 3 semester hours at the undergraduate level (4273) or graduate level (6273) in:

FANR Forestry and Natural Resources

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 6273 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 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 4273 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 prerequisites.

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.

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 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. 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 or the program director, 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, at the discretion of the Program Director, be grounds for dismissal from the program.

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

Collection of readings and course material to be downloaded from UGA e-Learning Commons (www.elc.uga.edu) prior to departure. The files will be available prior to the start of the program, and you should not expect to be able to download the materials easily or cheaply once in country.

You are required to bring a laptop or notebook with Microsoft Word (iPads, kindles, or other similar electronic reading devices are not acceptable for course assignments) and a flash drive. 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.

Course Requirements

Participation and engagement (10%)

It is expected that you will be fully engaged both with the community and your cohort/student group. Any lapses of participation and/or engagement will result in a lower grade. Your grade will be reduced by 2% for each seminar that you are not fully engaged in and/or unable to demonstrate a good comprehension of the readings.

Field modules (20%)

Refer to the *Field Modules Introduction and Overview* for details on assessment expectations and submission requirements for each of the various forms of modules. Refer to the file titled *Modules Fiji Summer* for the questions and to the itinerary for due dates (throughout the program). This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4.

Citizen science and service-learning projects (50%)

The citizen science and service-learning projects will be presented and assessed.

Final exam – concepts quiz (20%)

Refer to the required reading file titled *Modules Fiji Summer* for details on assessment expectations and submission requirements for the concepts quiz. Date as listed on the itinerary. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4.

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.

For the graduate/honors option course, one essay is required. 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 "graduate credit <first and last name> <study abroad country>") to the Lead Instructor within 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. For the first essay, respond to the following question: "Provide explicit examples of the ways in which facilitated personal development and leadership can contribute to a sustainable future?"

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 – 76.9 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.