Field Studies in Conservation: Great Smoky Mountains National Park Field Program
August 12 – 18, 2020 (field program)
ANTH/FORS 4270/6270 (3 credits)
Meets Experiential Learning Requirement (EL-approved)
Fall Semester Pre-Term
Program fee is $595

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Instructor: Dr. Michael Tarrant, Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA, tarrant@uga.edu
Office Address: Discover Abroad
Building Four, Suite 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

Live and study for a week inside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) with the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) and earn 3 credits. This experiential field program is appropriate for students of all disciplines and for anyone with an interest in the natural and cultural history of the Southern Appalachia. More specifically, the course will expose students to a variety of on-going and innovative programs, using hands-on, practical experiences, to explore the scope of human – environment relationships in the most visited national park in the country. The course is 24/7 during the field portion of the program and there are post-program assignments (including meetings during the early part of the Fall Semester). There are no pre-requisites but a program fee for accommodations, transport and meals is charged.

Required Reading (You must bring this with you. Used copies may be available on Amazon.)


Course Objectives

The course is designed to provide an intensive, on-site exposure to the breadth of human – environment relationships and, in particular, to a variety of factors in natural resources management, recreation and tourism, and environmental/science education. National Park Service professionals, university faculty, and recognized authorities and leaders in the environmental education and natural resources fields will provide instruction. The objectives of the course are:

1. To provide a high-quality educational field opportunity through on-site visits to GSMNP resources, facilities, and programs/services.
2. To encourage social interaction by placing students into living, study and activity groups.
3. To provide opportunities to identify and solve practical problems in the fields of natural resources management and environmental/science education.
4. To provide a professional, yet informal, social environment for working with students and faculty from other universities.
5. To give students the opportunity to interact with leading professionals in the field through hands-on, field-based, learning.

6. Conduct yourself in a manner consistent with the Discover Abroad Professional, Academic, and Ethical Code of Conduct (refer to the Program Manual for a description and course-related implications).

Course Topics

An introduction to the following (no pre-required knowledge necessary):

1. Environmental interpretation and education
   a. Environmental conservation
   b. Field journaling
   c. Environmental interpretation (education for adults)
   d. Environmental education (education for children)
   e. Recreation and tourism management

2. Cultural issues of the Smokies
   a. Cherokee history
   b. European history
   c. Folk lore and stories

3. Ecology and biogeography of the Smokies
   a. Air quality
   b. All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)
   c. High-country ecology
   d. Woody and herbaceous plants
   e. Exotic plants
   f. Stream ecology

4. Wildlife diversity of the Smokies
   a. Amphibians, reptiles and birds of the Smokies
   b. Mammals of the Smokies and mammal trapping
   c. Aquatic and terrestrial salamander survey methods
   d. Exotic animals

5. Human dimensions of natural resources
   a. Policy development
   b. Decision-making and negotiation simulations
   c. Values and attitudes formation

6. Recreation and tourism
   a. Tourism and environmental preservation
   b. Citizen science
   c. Recreation/visitor user fees and carrying capacities

Course Requirements

Failure to adhere to any of these submission requirements will result in an automatic 2% penalty per submission.

1. Pre-Trip Reading and Essays (10%)
   a. Read the textbook before leaving for the trip. This knowledge will be crucial for your participation and understanding throughout the week.
   b. Format requirements (one point deducted for each requirement if not adhered to)
      i. Give equal weight to each part of the following questions
      ii. Typed (include your name on each page and type the full question before each
iii. Between 200-250 words (only) per question
iv. Due by email to the instructor 24 hours prior to departure on day one of the program
v. Use Arial 9.5-point font, single-spaced, continuous essays (i.e., no page breaks between essays) titled, "<yourlastname>Smokies pre-trip essays 2020" to tarrant@uga.edu

c. Automatic 1% penalty for not adhering to submission requirements.
d. Essay questions (hint: the textbook will help you address all questions):
i. Describe how and when the Appalachian Mountains were formed.
ii. How do environmental factors (e.g., plants, sunlight, climatic conditions, etc) combine to create the blue haze typical of the Great Smoky Mountains? How has air pollution altered this characteristic blue haze?
iii. Describe the cultural changes of the Smoky Mountains region over the past two centuries.
iv. Why does GSMNP have so much diversity?

2. Participation (5%)
a. Actively participate in all lectures, activities and presentations, service projects, and general tasks and duties.
b. Any unexcused absences (or unsatisfactory participation in the Simulation) will result in an automatic loss of 2.5% per absence.

3. Journal and reflection (5%)
a. Turn-in two separate journal entries at the end of the final exam. The entries must fully comply with, and show detailed understanding and consideration of, the essential entries/standards required for nature/observation journaling.
b. Turn-in one reflection piece addressing all of the reflective questions posed during the week (~250 words).

4. Smokies simulation
a. Presentation and report (15%)
i. You will adopt a character role in the Smokies simulation, play that role, and submit your talk (handwritten) including references to the instructor at the start of the simulation activity.
b. Smokies simulation bibliography (5%)
i. Identify ten online sources (ranked in terms of importance/relevance) and submit an annotated bibliography (25 words per source) by email as a Word file (Arial 9.5 font, single-spaced) titled, "<yourlastname>SSI bibliography 2020" to tarrant@uga.edu by August 25, 2020 at 09:00 EDT.

5. Exam (50%)
a. Open-notes exam (morning of the final day of the program)
b. This comprehensive exam will require extensive mastery of the material, as little time will be available for note searching.

6. Post-program (early Fall Semester) seminars (10%)
a. Seminar (date/time to be scheduled in early Fall Semester) on overtourism in protected areas
   i. Read three articles and discuss in seminar
b. Seminar (date/time to be scheduled in early Fall Semester) on SSI topic
   i. Present annotated on the SSI (above) in 3 minutes/180 seconds

Course Grading

Final grades will be assigned as follows:
A  93 –100 percent
UGA Student Honor Code

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi. 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 (see Sanctions for Dishonesty), and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the University Academic Policy Panel.

Registration and Application

To secure your place on the program, please complete the following steps by June 30. If you do not complete these steps by this date your place on the program may be removed and replaced by someone on the waitlist. There are a limited number of places; these fill on a first come-first served basis.

1. Apply to the program via our website (www.discoverabroad.uga.edu). The application asks for your agreement to several statements pertaining to the program and your participation in it, along with information about yourself. It also includes a waiver form.
2. Upon review of your application, you may be offered a spot on the program and a $150 commitment deposit will be requested from you. This deposit will count towards your total program fee, the remainder of which will be billed at a later time. The deposit is requested by credit card payment via a link within your application.
3. After you have committed to the program and based on information provided on your application, you will be provided with registration information via email. You will register for two courses: (1) FSTY 1017 that registers you for the program and (2) FORS (ANTH) 4270 or 6270. (CRNs will be provided at a later date.)
4. After registration, your student account will be assessed tuition, UGA fees, and the remainder of the program fee. Payment in-full must be completed no later than two weeks prior to the program departure. Federal student loans, scholarships, and other authorized aid will be taken into consideration in determining if your account is “paid”. As the Smokies course is a fall course, the Bursar may set a due date that conflicts with the due date set by Discover Abroad, in which case the Discover Abroad due date supersedes this due date. There will be no refund of the commitment deposit.

Notes

1. The amount billed on your student account includes minimum fees associated with your registration and will increase if you take on-campus courses during the fall in addition to the Smokies field studies course.
2. Graduate credit for the course has the following additional requirement: 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. In addition, graduate students will be required to deliver and participate in a seminar presentation during the program.

3. Out-of-state students pay in-state tuition for the Smokies course if such students register for solely the Smokies course during the fall term.

4. You are fully responsible for any medical treatment while participating in the program as medical insurance coverage is not provided by the program.

5. There is a mandatory orientation available online from the Smokies website http://discoverabroad.uga.edu/programs/summer/united-states/

6. Students will be required to attend all mandatory presentations, seminars, and activities of the program.

7. Students unable to take the exam on the specified date will be given an incomplete (I) for the course and be given a make-up exam on the day of the first day of classes of the Fall semester.

8. All students will be registered for fall course credit, and will receive a grade for the course at the end of the fall term.

9. There is no extra credit opportunity.

10. You must bring a laptop computer (or alternate) to read Adobe (pdfs).

11. It is your responsibility to speak with the professor of any other courses that you are taking if you will miss any classes or assignments for that course whilst on the Smokies field program.

Departure and Return

1. We depart from Parking Lot S07 (next to Warnell/the Creamery on Green Street) UGA South Campus, Athens, GA on day one of the program @ 8:15 a.m. Please be there at 8:00 a.m. to check your luggage on the vans. You will not be able to leave your own vehicle at S07 so please make arrangements to get dropped off or to leave your vehicle elsewhere. **Bring a packed lunch or money for lunch on day one (and money for lunch on the final day) – all other meals are covered.**

2. You are limited to one duffle-bag, backpack, or suitcase (plus one small day-pack).

3. We will return to S07 campus on the final day of the program in the late afternoon.

Optional Reading


What To Bring List

Summer in the Smokies is generally warm and can be dry or wet. The average daily high in August is 88
degrees F and the average daily low is 62 degrees F. It will likely rain at some point during your visit so please bring raingear. Packing a variety of clothing layers will be helpful, as you may be hiking in cool, high elevations. You will be walking on trails so be sure to bring a pair of well broken-in hiking boots or good sturdy walking shoes along with an old pair of sneakers or water shoes for aquatic studies. Everyone should bring a daypack for you to carry raingear, water, sack lunch and other essentials. There are no commercial outlets or laundry facilities within GSMNP, so bring all necessities with you. You are fully responsible for any medical treatment while participating in the program as medical insurance coverage is not provided by the program.

1. What the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) provides:
   a. Heated and air-conditioned indoor facilities
   b. Bunk beds (dormitory style)
   c. Tent camping is available
   d. Meals and snacks (vegetarian option is available)
   e. Recreational equipment
   f. Small bookstore where environmental books and T-shirts may be purchased

2. What you must bring:
   a. Textbook
   b. Bedding (sleeping bag, or sheets and blanket, and pillow)
   c. Personal clothing (temperatures typically range from lows in the 60s to highs in the 90s)
   d. Laptop
   e. Hiking shoes (day-hikes)
   f. Water shoes/sandals (can double as shower shoes)
   g. Rain jacket
   h. All toiletries/personal hygiene items (including soap and shampoo)
   i. Bath towels (2)
   j. Bathing suit
   k. Notebooks and pens
   l. Alarm clock
   m. Insect repellent
   n. Medications as needed (e.g., allergies, motion sickness, prescriptions, etc)
   o. Insurance verification and blank checks/credit card in the event of accident or illness requiring medical attention
   p. Money for lunches on day one (travel day) and final day (travel day)
   q. Flashlight and/or headlamp (with spare batteries)
   r. Water bottle
   s. Trip insurance (accident) is available through most insurance agencies
   t. Binoculars (optional)
   u. Day pack (for day hikes)
   v. Field guides (optional, also available at Tremont)
   w. Small bedside light for reading (optional)
   x. Long pants (one pair) for backcountry/off trail and evenings
   y. Shorts (two pairs) for hikes
   z. Any musical instrument (optional)

3. General information
   a. One telephone is available at GSMIT for emergencies. Cell phones rarely work in the national park. There will be no opportunities to purchase food or drinks during the week.
   b. Address: Great Smoky Mtn. Institute at Tremont
      9275 Tremont Road
      GSMNP
4. Rules and regulations
   a. No student is to leave Tremont without the consent of the faculty supervisor.
   b. Punctual attendance at all consortium sessions is required.
   c. Alcoholic beverages, non-prescription drugs, or firearms are not allowed (on common transportation carriers and/or at Tremont) and may result in termination of the course for student.
   d. Cleaning living areas on a continuing basis is required. Students are responsible for dining hall chores before and after each meal as described by Tremont staff.
   e. All Tremont rules and regulations will be observed by all personnel.
   f. Non-conformance of the above rules will result in immediate, appropriate disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

Introduction to the National Park Service and GSMNP (taken from the National Outdoor Recreation and Rural Tourism Consortium)

The National Park Service was established in 1916 through the individual efforts of Stephen Mather, the first NPS director and the collective actions of other forward-thinking leaders, such as Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir and members of Congress. The NPS is a federal agency under the Department of Interior, which is the Department that also manages the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. However, national park territories have a different purpose from these other agencies. In the organic act which created the National Park Service, it reads: "The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations. . . by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." You, dear reader, are part of that "future generations" that the act of Congress referred to.

The National Park Service manages about 380 different areas as diverse as Blue Ridge Parkway, the Washington Monument, Gettysburg National Military Park, Canaveral National Seashore, Golden Spike National Historic Site, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the St. Louis Arch (Jefferson National Expansion Memorial), Grand Canyon National Park, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial and Women's Rights National Historic Park, to name just a few examples. The "crown jewels" of our country are largely protected in our 52 National Parks. National Parks are established by acts of Congress. They are areas that typically cover a large area that contains a variety of resources and encompasses sufficient land or water to encourage adequate protection of the resources. Some of the most well-known parks include: Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Everglades, Shenandoah, Big Bend, Rocky Mountain and Great Smoky Mountains. Just reading this list of names makes most of us proud to be Americans. A scholar once commented that the National Park idea is the best idea America ever gave to the world. It is sometimes heard that the "Government" is "locking-up" too much land. All of areas of the National Park system "protect" less than 2% of the land area of the mainland 48 states. Should we open places like the Grand Canyon or Yosemite for developers from Holiday Inns, McDonalds, Disney, Hilton, or Motel-6? They would be pleased to take them over, so that you would not have to pay taxes to support them? Food for thought. Should we let the "government" or "private development" manage our national parks? Are you willing to pay the taxes or user fees to assist in government ownership?

Great Smoky Mountains National Park was authorized by Congress in May of 1926, designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 1976 and designated as a world heritage site in 1983. It is comprised of 520,004 federal acres and 266 non-federal acres. It has the loftiest range east of the Black Hills of South Dakota and is one of the oldest uplands on earth. The Smokies have a diversified and luxurious plant life, often of extraordinary size. This
mountain range escaped glaciation due to its southern location. The area was the home of native Americans, including the Cherokee tribe, whose story is one of the greatest tragedies in North America. William Bartram, the Southeast's first field natural scientist explorer came to the Smokies in the late 18th century. He documented the culture of the Cherokee and the plant life of the region. Throughout the 19th century, the region was settled by farmers and tradesmen, driving the Cherokee out of Tennessee and North Carolina despite dozens of treaties from Washington granting rights to the land "forever." The idea of creating some kind of park in the Appalachian region was first proposed in 1899 and renewed in 1923. But establishing a national park in the Southern Appalachians required a different approach than in the West, where most parks were being created. Western parks were carved out of land already owned by the federal government as part of the vast public domain. But in the Smokies, 85% of the total acreage was owned by 18 timber and pulpwood companies, while the remaining 15% was divided among some 6,000 farmers and owners of homesites. In 1924, the Secretary of the Interior appointed a special committee to survey the entire mountain region for the best location for a national park. Finally, the committee reported that; "The Great Smoky Mountains easily stand first because of the height of the mountains, depth of the valleys, ruggedness of the area and the unexampled variety of trees, shrubs and plants." In 1926, legislation was enacted to create three national parks: Shenandoah, Smoky Mountains, and Mammoth Cave. On Sept. 2, 1940, the park was dedicated by FDR. (Note: this portion of the history was derived from the publications of Michael Frome.)