Welcome to the UGA Spring Break in Hawai‘i
Field Studies in Natural Resources: Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment
ANTH/ECOL/FANR/GEOG/INTL 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

This course will examine human and environment relations in Hawai‘i with a view to improving our understanding of sustainability issues in Pacific island nations. Through field experiences, lectures from university faculty, presentations from representatives of local Hawai‘ian organizations, field modules, directed assignments and associated activities students explore human relationships with marine and terrestrial resources on the Big Island of Hawai‘i.

*FANR 4271/6271 meets requirements for the UGA Writing Certificate (4271/6271W). Students taking other prefixes (i.e., ANTH/ECOL/GEOG/INTL 4271) will need to contact the Discover Abroad office to request the W suffix

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

In order to evaluate the complex relationships between human culture and the natural environment and to address the “big questions” facing sustainability, you will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the related social and cultural contexts of Hawai‘i as presented in readings, seminars, lectures, and field activities.
2. Apply this knowledge to understand the complexity of the social dimensions of sustainable development in Hawai‘i and to international and global issues generally.
3. Engage in creative individual- and peer-based experiential learning to design integrated solutions to the major challenges facing sustainable development through recall, translation, deconstruction and reflection of the knowledge acquired.
4. Critically evaluate the human dimensions of sustainable development through personal experiences, peer-group evaluations, and applied research projects; in particular, to be able to
   a. Judge the strengths and weaknesses of solutions to problems arising from human-environment interactions using evidence from applied case studies;
   b. Evaluate ethical implications of conservation and sustainability;
   c. Defend your perspectives in written and oral presentations.
5. 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 (4271) or graduate level (6271) in Field Studies in Natural Resources: Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment, in any of the following:

- ANTH Anthropology
- ECOL Ecology
- FANR Forestry and Natural Resources
- GEOG Geography
- INTL International Affairs

Graduate and Honors Option Credit

Students who wish to take this course for honors credit will be required to register for the graduate version of the course. To do so, simply request this course upon applying to the program, and the CRN will be given to you when it comes time to register. Remember that there are additional requirements for graduate credit. See "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" below. Questions about graduate course credit and how it works with your honors program of study may be directed to the Honors Program (honors@uga.edu), Tel: 706-542-6938.

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 education 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.

Required Reading

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

Pre-departure lectures and in-field quiz (10%)

A quiz will be administered on the morning of the first full day in Hawai’i, covering the course’s pre-departure lecture(s) and associated readings (see above). The exam will likely include essays and short answer questions, as well as multiple-choice and true/false questions. This requirement meets the following learning outcome(s): 1.

Field modules (60%)

Refer to the Field Modules Introduction and Overview on eLC for details on assessment expectations and submission requirements for each of the various forms of modules. Refer to the file titled Modules Hawaii Spring 2016 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.

Concept quiz (10%)

Refer to the Field Modules Introduction and Overview on eLC for details on assessment expectations. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 1, 2.

Pre- and post-departure assignments: Personal digital introduction (2%) and digital story (18%)

Refer to the Field Modules Introduction and Overview on eLC for details on the assessment expectations and submission requirements for (1) the personal digital introduction and (2) the digital story. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 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 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 Instructor within 4 weeks of the completion of the program. Failure to meet a passing grade for the assignment(s) and/or submit the assignment 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 essay, respond to the following prompt: Sustainability revisited. The meaning of sustainability is debated among scholars and citizens alike. In fact, some argue that sustainability is not a goal at all, but a general guide for the policy choices that we make. Read the article by Robert Solow listed below (available on ELC) and provide a critique of sustainability as a concept. Is the triple bottom line an overly simple representation of sustainability? What else might we need to think about to create a world that can support human welfare into the foreseeable future? Does the triple bottom line adequately capture inter and intra generational equity, and how does this relate to human welfare and the choices that we make to develop or not develop natural resources currently?


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-field or contact the office for the most recent version.