Welcome to the UGA Summer Australia Study Abroad
Special Problems in Foods and Nutrition
FDNS 5710/7710 (3 credits)

This is a sample syllabus intended as a general guide only and deviations may be necessary.

Instructor: Dr. Silvia Giraudo, Food and Nutrition, UGA, sgiraudo@uga.edu
Program Director: Dr. Michael Tarrant, Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Warnell Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA, tarrant@uga.edu
Office Address: Discover Abroad
Building 4, 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

A 3.5 week study abroad program that examines the global similarities and differences of issues related to human nutrition and food in the context of Queensland, Australia through field experiences, classes, and student projects. The goal of this course is to use the Australian case to integrate different perspectives of diverse natural, biological, and social science disciplines to improve our understanding of the relationships between human societies and the natural environment in the context of foods, nutrition and health.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program students will:

1. Be able to answer questions concerning the effect of socioeconomic, psychological, and cultural factors affecting food intake;
2. Be able to discuss global environmental problems related to food, nutrition and health;
3. Have a basic knowledge of the factors affecting risk of chronic disease including family history, health behaviors, and food consumption;
4. Know and appreciate the impacts of human actions on natural systems and human responses to those changes as related to food, nutrition and health, using the case of Queensland, Australia.

Course Credit

Credit is offered for a total of 3 semester hours for undergraduate credit (FDNS 5710) or graduate credit (FDNS 7710).

Graduate and Honors Option Credit

Students who wish to take FDNS 5710 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 (http://honesty.uga.edu). 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 (https://drc.uga.edu/). Some activities include moderate exercise, such as hiking and snorkeling.

Coursebook

Collection of readings and course material: Download from UGA e-Learning Commons (http://elc.uga.edu) prior to departure. The files will be available approximately four weeks 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.

Optional Reading

For pre-departure (optional) reading, we recommend:


Course Requirements

Field modules (70%)

The field modules are location-based questions to be answered as individually written 250-word essays, group debates, site quizzes, and/or research projects. Due dates as listed on the Course Itinerary. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4.

Final Project (30%)

The final project may draw material from any reading, field exercise, lecture, or discussion, and you may refer to your notes from lectures and field activities. Health is part of the culture: What are some ways that the culture affects health? Disparity among health policies and intervention programs are affected by social and economic factors. As a group you are responsible in developing a new health intervention program, culturally sensible to all the habitants, how will you carry the task and what factors will you have in consideration. Use your own personal thoughts and observations that reflect your experience on this course (there is no need for any references). Complete the essay, minimum 3 pages in Times New Roman, 12-point font (single-spaced) and email as one electronic (Word or .pdf) file (titled “reflection essays <first and last name> <FDNS 5710>”) to my e-mail: sgiraudo@uga.edu

Additional Assignment for Graduate or Honors Option Credit

For the graduate/Honors Option an additional post-course essay is required. This requirement is aimed at synthesizing your study abroad experience. The essay is to be 1000 words (not including references) and should address the following question: “How did the study abroad experience influence your understanding of global and U.S. health issues?”

Your essay will be expected to demonstrate an ability to synthesize concepts and material across the course using real-world scenarios, to include external references (which must be fully cited), and to be written in a well executed, grammatically correct style. Essays will be graded on a pass/fail basis.
Grade Assessment

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100 percent</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5 – 92.9 percent</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.4 percent</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.9 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5 – 82.9 percent</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.4 percent</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76.0 percent</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5 – 72.9 percent</td>
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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.