

Welcome to the UGA Fall Study Abroad Program in Antarctica

Antarctica: The Fragile Continent
FANR/MARS 4272/6272 (6 credits)
Online/live Classes: Fall Semester
Field Trip: Winter Break

Please note: This syllabus is a general plan only; deviations may be necessary

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Course Description

Antarctica has been described as the “coldest, windiest, driest, highest, quietest, most remote, and least understood continent on earth”. It is also one of the most fascinating to the human imagination. This study abroad course explores the Antarctica and adjacent sub-Antarctic region (such as Tierra del Fuego and the Southern Ocean), including its history, geology, climate, and marine and terrestrial biology. Special attention is given to contemporary legal, psychological, and anthropological aspects of human activity in the region, conservation of ecosystems, and sustainable use of natural resources. Pre-departure online lectures are required.

Course Objectives

By the end of the program students will:

1. Develop, through field-based travel experiences, lectures and assigned readings, an holistic, interdisciplinary understanding of the physical and social history and current issues in the Antarctic region, including their inter-relationships;
2. Develop specialized understanding, through independent research, of the issues in one specific area of Antarctica enquiry related to their major (e.g., history of science/exploration, environmental ethics, geology and global climate change, marine bird or southern forest conservation, etc.);
3. Overall, develop a nuanced understanding of issues in exploration, exploitation, conservation, and sustainable use of the Antarctic region.
4. 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 a total of 6 semester hours for undergraduate credit (4272) or graduate credit (6272) in *Antarctica: The Fragile Continent*. Students register in the Fall Semester and can select any two of the following course prefixes for 3 semester credits each (or one for 6 credits):

FANR Forestry and Natural Resources
MARS Marine Sciences

Graduate and Honors Option Credit

Both Honors and non-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 one or both courses at the 6000-level. (Students with less than 60 hours may still register for 6272 courses if they will have 60 or more hours completed by the end of the spring semester.) Please follow these steps:

1. Students must obtain and complete a "Graduate Course Application" form available from the Honors Program in Moore College before the end of the spring semester. The form must be signed by an Honors Program representative who has verified your hours and GPA, the lead instructor of the program (see p.1), and then the head of the department of the prefix for which you are registering. After this the department should add your name to the access list for the course, thus allowing you to register.
2. If you are taking 6 credit hours of graduate courses you will need to complete two forms (one form per 3 credit hour course).
3. There are additional requirements for graduate credit, see "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" in the syllabus. Honors students are reminded that taking two three-hour graduate classes will get them two-thirds the way towards completing one of the Honors capstone requirements.

Honors students may alternatively obtain Honors credit for 4272 with an Honors Option. Please follow these steps:

1. Download the "Honors Option Application" form available at http://www.uga.edu/honors/forms/current_students/courses_and_adv/honors_option_app.pdf. The form must be completed during the first 10 days of the semester and signed by the lead instructor of the program (see p.1). The completed form should be turned in at the front desk of Moore College.
2. If you are taking 6 credit hours of Honors Option courses you will need to complete two forms (one form per 3 credit hour course).
3. There are additional requirements for Honors Option credit, see "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" in the syllabus.

Prerequisites

All students in good academic standing are eligible to take the course. There are no pre-requisites.

Attendance

Attendance in Fall class meetings is mandatory and will be reflected in the course grade. Students on Athens campus have to attend at least eight class meetings. Students not on Athens campus have to participate in class meetings via Skype. For every class meeting attended above the required eight, 1% will be added to the course grade. For every class meeting missed below the required eight, a 2% penalty will be imposed. Students unable to attend class meetings in person or via Skype because of a scheduling conflict with another course, after approval from the lead instructor, will be required to write a 350-word summary of the class material (for each class missed). These summaries will be due one hour prior to the beginning of the respective class period by email to the lead instructor with the filename titled, "<your last name> month and day of the meeting" (e.g., Siry August 19).

Furthermore, midterm and pre-departure exams will be administered by email and will have to be taken during a specified period of time. The field orientation is mandatory and all students must attend in person.

During the field part of the program, active participation in all scheduled program-related activities is required, including group meetings, discussions, field excursions, as well as lectures and any other scheduled activities.

Unless an absence is approved by one of the instructors or the program directors, students will lose 10% of their final grade for each day or part-day they fail to participate. For further details of the attendance and tardiness policy, please refer to the Global Programs in Sustainability *Program Manual* (available at <http://discoverabroad.uga.edu/applications/download-center/>)

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://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 within one week of the UGA on-campus orientation and register with UGA Disability Resource Center (www.drc.uga.edu). Some activities include moderate exercise, such as hiking.

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. An optional hardcopy is also available, though not required. 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

Mid-term exam and pre-departure exam (20% each)

The exams are open notes and will draw material from the online pre-departure lectures and associated readings. It will comprise any combination of short, objective (multi-choice, true-false, etc.) questions and essay questions. Email the exam as an attachment to the lead instructor; filename: "<your last name> mid-term exam" or "<your last name> pre-departure exam". There will be an automatic 5% penalty for either not conforming to the correct filename or not submitting to the correct email address. Late submissions will receive an automatic penalty of 10%.

Field modules (20% each)

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. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4.

Independent research project and seminar presentation (20%)

This involves two parts:

Part A – 5% grade for participation in class discussions, and the development and delivery of follow up presentations based on online lectures during the fall semester as per assignments from the lead instructor. The class meetings will be used to explore and discuss in depth topics presented in online lectures. The online lectures will be made available on Tuesday the week before they are scheduled for class meetings in order to give the students time to view the lectures and prepare follow up presentations and class discussions. Detailed information about access to the online lectures is provided in the section titled, “Pre-departure Online Lectures” below. Furthermore, a detailed fall class meeting schedule is provided in the table titled, “Pre-departure Class Meetings” below.

Part B – 15% grade for creating and delivering a research seminar presentation. Based on primary sources, students will develop a ~1500 words typed research essay/project exploring a topic related to their area of interest/major. Topics must be approved by the instructor (in the form of a one paragraph summary statement due by October 7). The final project is due in paper form to the instructor (and submitted as an electronic file attachment to the lead instructor filename: “<your last name> research project”) on December 2 and should be typed using Arial 10-point font, single-spaced, and one inch margins. (References and appendices are not included in the page limits.) Files can include photos etc but must not be larger than 2MB in size (photos can be compressed). There will be an automatic 5% penalty for either not conforming to the correct format, correct filename or not submitting to the correct email address and an additional 2.5% penalty for files larger than 2MB. Late submissions will receive an automatic penalty of 10%. All material must be typed and referenced using the American Psychological Association citation guidelines; for example,

Tarrant, M.A. & Cordell, H.K. (2002). Amenity values of public and private forests: Examining the value – attitude relationship. *Environmental Management*, 30(5), 692-703.

You will be responsible for presenting your independent research essay as a one hour seminar while on the boat (to be delivered as a multi-media, Powerpoint presentation) including a discussion of the presentation. You must prepare all material before departing the States for the program as there will not be time (or resources) to do so in Ushuaia or on board the boat. The instructor will assign times/dates for the seminars. Further, you will have to provide a paper (scientific or popular press) related to the topic of your research that will help other students to prepare for discussion following your presentation. You will have to identify the paper and provide its reference to the lead instructor by October 7.

Additional Course Assignment for Graduate and Honors Option Credit

For each 3-credit graduate/Honors Option course that you are taking, there is an additional report/assignment that synthesizes your study abroad experience. The report is a 1000-word typed essay (using the same style format and due date as for the take-home exam) to be graded on a pass/fail basis. Papers that receive a fail grade may be submitted one additional time and will be due 10 days after the failed assignment is returned. Late submissions will receive a penalty of 10% for each day or part thereof that they are late. For the first 3 credit course, respond to the following question: How did this course influence your understanding of global and U.S. conservation issues? This assignment will be due on the due date of the final exam. Email to the lead instructor; filename: “<your last name> honors part one”. For the second 3 credit course, write a magazine or newspaper article (that may include photographs and captions) that describes how you benefited from the study abroad experience. This assignment will be due within seven days of the last day of the field portion of the program. Email to the lead instructor; filename: “<your last name> honors part two”.

Graduate students are also expected to demonstrate greater depth and breadth of understanding in (a) the submission of the independent research project (online class) and (b) the presentation of the independent research project (field program).

Grade Assessment

All material will be graded and assigned within one week of the end of the study abroad course. Students will receive a Not Reported (NR) for the fall semester. 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

Pre-departure Online Lectures

Pre-departure online lectures are mandatory and delivered by the Discover Abroad office via VoiceThread, an online platform accessible anywhere that you have access to the internet. Please sign into VoiceThread (<https://voicethread.com>) with your UGA email address and the password temp01. You will be prompted to change your password. To access the course page, scroll down the left hand column to “Organizations” to join the “Discover Abroad, University of Georgia” VoiceThread group. Once you have logged onto VoiceThread, open the respective lecture for that week (refer to the Pre-departure Lectures listed below). Within the VoiceThread system, you can comment on the lecture by inserting text, leaving a voice recording, or uploading a file. You will need a set of speakers or headset to listen to the weekly online lectures, but will not need a microphone unless you would like to record voice comments. Lectures will be loaded on the Tuesday before the next in-person class meeting.

Course Topics

See the itinerary for a full list and schedule of field activities and lectures.

Pre-departure Class Meeting Lectures

Week	In-class hours*	Topic	In-class Hours	Online Hours
1	5:00-6:30 pm	Overview and introduction to the course and program	1.5	
2	5:00-5:50 pm	Discover Abroad Pre-departure Lecture: Progress and Sustainability	1.0	1.5
3		Labor Day – no class meeting		
4	5:00-5:50 pm	History of Exploration	1.0	1.5
5	5:00-5:50 pm	Human Dimensions of Antarctica	1.0	1.5
6	5:00-5:50 pm	Antarctic Treaty	1.0	1.5
7	5:00-5:50 pm	Antarctic Birds	1.0	1.5
8	5:00-5:50 pm	Antarctic Microbes	1.0	1.5
9	5:00-6:30 pm	Midterm Exam	1.5	
10	5:00-5:50 pm	Antarctic Tourism	1.0	1.5
11	Due by 5:00 pm	Climate Change	1.0	1.5
12	5:00-5:50 pm	Glaciology	1.0	1.5
13	1:00-4:00 pm	Pre-departure Orientation	3.0	
14	5:00-5:50 pm	Art in Antarctica	1.0	1.5
15	5:00-6:30 pm	Bio-prospecting simulation	1.5	1.5
		Thanksgiving Break – no class meeting		
TBA	5:00 – 5:50 pm	Pre-Departure Exam	3.0	
* Times are Eastern Daylight/Standard Time.				

Sample Field Program

Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula and Tierra del Fuego through expert lectures and field activities

Please note: This itinerary is a sample of potential program activities, based on previous years' programs. Topics will vary by boat and activities will be dependent on environmental (especially climatic) conditions; therefore some deviations from this plan should be expected.

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
Ushuaia	Day 1	19:00 – 21:00	Welcome dinner and program orientation	1L
Ushuaia	Day 2	09:00 – 12:00	Field trip to Martial Glacier	3F
		15:00 – 17:00	Discussion and organization of group projects	2L
Expedition ship to Antarctic Peninsula	Day 3	10:00 – 11:00	Student seminar	1L
		12:00 – 15:00	Guided walking tour of Ushuaia and Museo Maritimo de Ushuaia	3F
			Board expedition ship for cruise through Beagle Channel to Antarctica	
		19:30 – 21:00	Geology of Antarctica and glaciation	1.5L
At sea: Drake Passage Crossing	Day 4	8:00 – 10:00	Antarctic Wildlife: Marine mammals and seabirds	2L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions, Zodiac landings, and wildlife viewing	4F
		19:30 – 20:30	Student seminar	1L
At sea: South Shetland Islands	Day 5	8:00 – 10:00	Antarctica as an extreme environment	2L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting	4F
		16:00 – 18:00	Student seminars	2L
At sea: Antarctic Peninsula (Deception Island)	Day 6	8:00 – 10:00	International management of Antarctica; legal frameworks	2L

		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting around the active volcano of Deception Island)	4F
		16:00 – 18:00	Student seminars	2L
		19:30 – 21:00	Effects of tourism on Antarctica; review of day's sightings	1.5L
At sea: Antarctic Peninsula (King George Island)	Day 7	8:00 – 10:00	Group discussion and project mid-term evaluation	2L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting	4F
		16:00 – 18:00	Student seminars	2L
		19:30 – 21:00	Living at a polar research base; review of day's sightings	1.5L
At sea: Antarctic Peninsula (Port Lockroy)	Day 8	8:00 – 10:00	Polar psychology and group dynamics	2L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting	4F
		16:00 – 18:00	Student seminars	2L
		19:30 – 20:30	Student seminar	1L
At sea: Antarctic Peninsula (Lemaire Channel)	Day 9	8:00 – 10:00	History of polar exploration and scientific discovery	2L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting	4F
		16:00 – 18:00	Student seminars	2L
		19:30 – 21:00	Marine and freshwater biology; review of day's sightings	1.5L
At sea: Drake Passage Crossing	Day 10	8:00 – 10:00	Cultural resource management in Antarctica	2L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting	4F
		16:00 – 18:00	Student seminars	2L
		19:30 – 21:00	Ecological and geo-political future of Antarctica	1.5L

At sea: Drake Passage	Day 11	8:00 – 11:00	Group project presentations	3L
		10:30 – 16:00	Ship excursions and wildlife spotting	4F
			Farewell ship dinner and party	
Ushuaia	Day 12		Disembark from expedition ship in Ushuaia and transfer to Laguna Esmeralda beech forest day hike	4F
		19:00 – 20:00	Group discussion and synthesis	1L
Ushuaia	Day 13		Return to the USA	

Contact Hours

Lecture hours (including pre-departure and field): 80 lecture hours

Field hours: 42 field hours (using 2 field hours = 1 lecture hour) = 21 lecture hours

Field modules (n=2 at 3 hours each of independent study): 6 lecture hours

Total contact (lecture equivalent) hours = 107 hours (6 credit course)