

Welcome to the UGA Maymester add-on Study Abroad in Fiji

Field Studies in Natural Resources: Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment
ANTH/ECOL/FANR/GEOG/INTL 4271/6271W (3 credits)

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Course Description

This course will examine human and environment relations in Fiji with a view to improving our understanding of sustainability issues in Pacific island nations. Through field experiences, lectures from university faculty (including the University of Fiji and/or University of the South Pacific), presentations from representatives of local Fijian organizations, field modules, directed assignments, a village homestay and associated activities, students will explore human relationships with marine and terrestrial resources on the main and offshore islands of Fiji. The course meets requirements for the UGA Writing Certificate (4271/6271W).

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 natural history, biogeography, ecological diversity, and related social and cultural contexts of Fiji, as presented in readings, seminars, lectures, and field activities.
2. Apply this knowledge to understand the complexity of sustainable development in Fiji, and to international and global issues generally; in particular to
 - a. Demonstrate understanding of differences in causality and correlation, the effects of scale (geographic and temporal), and inter-disciplinary approaches in issues of sustainable development
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 and biophysical 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

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 6271 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. Complete a "Graduate Course Application" form available from the Honors Program in Moore College. The form must be signed by an Honors Program representative who has verified your hours and GPA, the Lead Instructor of the program, and then the head of the department of the prefix for which you are registering (e.g., Anthropology Department for ANTH 6271, Geography Department for GEOG 6271, etc). After this the department should add your name to the access list for the course, thus allowing you to register. Return the completed Graduate Course Application form to Moore College.
2. You need to complete one form for each 3 credit hour course.
3. There are additional requirements for graduate credit, see "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" below. Honors students are reminded that taking two three-hour graduate classes gets them two-thirds of the way towards completing one of the Honors capstone requirements. Questions about graduate course credit may be directed to Dr. Diane Miller (dmiller@uga.edu).

Honors students may alternatively obtain honors credit for 4271 with an Honors Option. Please follow these steps:

1. Download, complete, and submit the "Honors Option Application" form available at https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current_students/courses_and_adv/honors_option_app.pdf
2. You need to complete one form for each 3 credit hour course.
3. There are additional requirements for Honors Option credit, see "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" below.

Prerequisites

All students in good academic standing are eligible to take the course. There are no academic prerequisites.

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 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

Day one open-book exam (10%)

An open book exam will be administered on the morning of the first full day in Fiji, covering the coursebook 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 course requirement meets the following learning outcome(s): 1.

Field modules (60%)

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.

Visual Assignment (15%)

As a follow-up to module II question 3 exploring the postcard image of Fiji, produce a set of 8 slides (in Powerpoint) that, in your substantiated opinion, best reflect the real/authentic Fiji. Each slide should represent a unique image that either represents the perspective of a particular actor or stakeholder (i.e., individual, groups of individuals, organization) present in Fiji, or that “looks behind” the postcard image of Fiji. Include a ~100 word narrative (in the “notes” section) of each slide that describes the image with specific reference to readings, lectures, and/or discussions during the program.

The first slide should be a title page including your name and title of the presentation, the last slide is a conclusion page, and the interior six slides should address above. Please do not take pictures of people obviously without their permission; it is considered as culturally rude in Fiji as it is in the U.S. Submit your assignment as an electronic email attachment (no more than 1MB in size – compress pictures to reduce file size) titled “<your first and lastname> <fiji photo essay>” to your small group faculty/instructor within 14 days of the last day of the program (please confirm the deadline with your instructor before departing the program in-country). Failure to adhere to any of these requirements will result in an automatic 10% (minimum) to 20% (maximum) penalty in grade. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 3, 4.

Identification exam (15%)

On/about the final day of the program, there will be an open-book exam in which you will have 60-70 words (only) to describe each of a number of terms/concepts introduced throughout the course (field and classroom). 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 **each** 3-credit 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 “*your last and first name* graduate credit”) to the instructor within four (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: “How did the study abroad experience influence your understanding of global **and** U.S. issues of sustainability?” For the second essay, write a magazine or newspaper style article (that may include photographs and captions) that describes how you benefited from the study abroad experience.

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.

Sample