

ANTH/FORS/RLST4270/6270 (3 credits)
 Natural Resources Field Studies in Great Smoky Mountains National Park
 (Days one to six in field, day seven on UGA campus)
www.discoverabroad.uga.edu

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

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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. There are no pre-requisites but a program fee for accommodations and meals is charged.

Required Reading (You must bring this with you)

Linzey, D.W. (2008). *A Natural History Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, TN. ISBN # 13:978-1-57233-612-4

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 Discover Abroad's Professional, Academic, and Ethical Code of Conduct (refer to the *Program Manual* for a description and course-related implications).

Course Topics

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. Land use simulation: Tourism, environmental preservation, and mineral extraction
 - d. 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

Course Requirements

1. Pre-Trip Reading and Quiz (10%)
 - a. Read the textbook before leaving for the trip. This knowledge will be crucial for your participation and understanding throughout the week.
 - b. The quiz will be **due at 8am on day one** of the program
 - c. 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 answer)
 - iii. Between 200-250 words per question
 - iv. Hand-in one hard copy (use recycled paper if you prefer or print on both sides of the paper)
 - v. Use Times New Roman 10 point font, single-spaced
 - d. Quiz 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. Describe trends and changes in recreation behavior in, and tourism visitation to, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park since its inception.
2. Participation (5%)
 - a. Actively participate in all lectures, activities and presentations, service projects, and general tasks and duties. In particular, strong contribution to the Land-Use Simulation Exercise will be required.
 - b. Any unexcused absences (or unsatisfactory participation in the Simulation) will result in an automatic loss of 2.5% per absence.
3. Nature Journal (5%)
 - a. Turn-in two separate journal reports at the end of the final exam on day six of the program.

4. Final Exam (60%)
 - a. Open-notes final exam (morning of day six of the program)
 - b. This comprehensive exam will require extensive mastery of the material, as little time will be available for note searching.
5. Smokies simulation: Presentation and report (20%)
 - a. You will adopt one character role (stakeholders in pairs and senators as individuals) in the Smokies simulation and
 - i. play that role in the simulation exercise;
 - ii. provide supporting material (6 – 8 articles, websites, etc as .pdfs) in hard copy on that role;
 - iii. submit your talk in Word format (typed, multiple (1.15) spaced, and 9.5-point Arial font), including any recommended changes to the character role description and including a complete reference list of the materials (not in the word limit). The .pdfs and report (titled <name of character role><your last name(s)>) are to be emailed to the instructor at least one hour prior to the start of the simulation activity.

Course Grading

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

The post-trip paper will be penalized by 10% for each day (or part thereof) that it is late.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

All academic work must meet the standards contained in the University's academic honesty policy (see "A Culture of Honesty" 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 are severe (see "Sanctions for Dishonesty"; www.uga.edu/ovpi), and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

Registration and Application

To secure your place on the program, please complete the following by June 15:

1. Complete and sign all three parts of the *Health, Waiver, and Special Accommodations Form* and return to the office of Global Programs in Sustainability (Room 300, Building One, Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA Campus, Athens, GA 30602-2152; Tel: 706.542.9713) or email to discoverabroad@uga.edu. It is the students' responsibility to prepare for any known health problems that might arise on the field trip. In particular, students should inform the course instructor in advance of any medical condition that might affect them on the field trip, and if students might need medication during the field trip (e.g. for a severe allergy or asthma), they should bring the medication with them.
2. Pay tuition for three credits and the program fee to the UGA Bursars office through your student account. Once you submit an application, your student account will be assessed a fee equivalent to the program fee amount. You are responsible for checking your student account and making the

payments in a timely manner. The program fee this year is \$410 and the following cancellation policy applies: (i) cancellation of more than two months prior to beginning of the program, 50% will be refunded, (ii) cancellation of more than one month prior to beginning of the program, 25% will be refunded, and (c) cancellation of one month or less prior to beginning of the program, 0% will be refunded.

3. The following courses are available (all courses are POD)
 - a. Anthropology (ANTH 4270)
 - b. Anthropology (ANTH 6270)
 - c. Forestry and Natural Resources (FORS 4270)
 - d. Forestry and Natural Resources (FORS 6270)
 - e. Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLST 4270)
 - f. Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLST 6270)

Notes

1. Activity fees are waived if you are not taking other summer classes by completing and submitting the Activities Fees Waiver Form.
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. There is a mandatory orientation (available online from the Smokies website).
4. Students will be required to attend all mandatory presentations, seminars, and activities of the program.
5. 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.
6. All students will be registered for Summer course credit (second session), but will receive an incomplete (I), which will be subsequently changed to a letter grade once the course has finished.
7. Unless stated otherwise, there is no extra credit opportunity.

Departure and Return

1. We depart from Whitehall Forest, Athens, GA on day one of the program @ 8:00 a.m. Please be there at 7:30 a.m. to check your luggage on the vans. **You may wish to bring a packed lunch as we will not arrive at Tremont until late in the afternoon and there are only limited eating places close to the park.**
2. You are limited to one duffle-bag, backpack, or suitcase (plus one small day-pack).
3. We will return to campus on day six in the mid afternoon. Lunch on your own that day. We will plan to stop at an eating place on the return to Athens.
4. The group presentations will be on the last day of the program on UGA campus in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources (3:00 – 6:00pm; Room 1-304).

Optional Reading

Alsop, F. (2001). *Birds of the Smokies*. Gatlinburg, TN: Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Assoc.
 Ayers, H., Hager, J., & Little, C.E. Eds. (1998). *An Appalachian tragedy: Air pollution and tree death in the eastern forests of North America*. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books.

Brown, M.L. (2000). *The wild east: A biography of the Great Smoky Mountains*. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press.

Kemp, S. (1998). *Trees and familiar shrubs of the Smokies*. Gatlinburg, TN : Great Smoky Mountains

Natural History Association.

Linzey, D.W. (1995). *Mammals of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press.

Tilley, S.G. & Huheey, J.E. (2001). *Reptiles and amphibians of the Smokies*. Gatlinburg, TN : Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association.

Williams, D.D. (2010). *The forests of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. Athens, GA: Possum Publications.

What To Bring List

Summer in the Smokies is warm and wet. The average daily high in August is 88 degrees F. and the average daily low is 62 degrees F. It will 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 day-pack 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.

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. Bedding (sleeping bag or sheets and blanket, and pillow)
 - b. Personal clothing (temperatures typically range from lows in the 60s to highs in the 90s)
 - c. Hiking shoes (day-hikes)
 - d. Water shoes/sandals (can double as shower-shoes)
 - e. Rain jacket
 - f. All toiletries/personal hygiene items (including soap and shampoo)
 - g. Bath towels *2
 - h. Bathing suit
 - i. Notebooks and pens
 - j. Alarm clock
 - k. Insect repellent
 - l. Medications as needed (e.g., allergies, motion sickness, prescriptions, etc)
 - m. Insurance verification and blank checks/credit card in the event of accident or illness requiring medical attention
 - n. Bag lunch for day one (travel from Athens to Tremont)
 - o. Some money for lunch on the return from Tremont to Athens
 - p. Flashlight and/or headlamp with batteries
 - q. Water bottle
 - r. Trip insurance (accident) is available through most insurance agencies
 - s. Slip-on shoes (for showers and bedrooms)
 - t. Binoculars (optional)
 - u. Day pack (for day hikes)
 - v. Field guides (optional, also available at Tremont)
 - w. Small bedside light for reading

- x. Long pants (one pair) for backcountry/off trail
 - y. Shorts (two pairs) for hikes
 - z. Any musical instrument (optional)
3. General information
- a. One telephone is available at GSMIT. You **must** have a PHONE CARD to use this phone. 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
 Townsend, TN 37882
Emergency Tel: 865-448-6709 or 865-436-1294
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.)