

**G'Day and Welcome to the UGA Spring Study Abroad**  
*Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment*  
FANR/INTL 4271/6271W (1 to 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 focuses on the sustainable relationship of humans and their environment through educational travel, field trips, active participation, lectures, seminars, and applied exercises to Hawai'i, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. Location-based case studies are used to integrate the different perspectives of diverse natural, biological, and social science disciplines and to improve our understanding of sustainability. Both countries boast some of the most diverse and remarkable natural and cultural resources in the Southern hemisphere including networks of national parks, reserves, offshore islands, and coastal areas, as well as unique indigenous cultures and history. Pre-departure and post-departure assignments are required (refer to the Course Requirements section in this syllabus as well as the itinerary). The course meets requirements for the UGA Writing Certificate (4271/6271W).

### Course Objectives

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 Hawai'i, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji as presented in readings, seminars, lectures, and field activities.
2. Apply this knowledge to understand the complexity of sustainable development in Hawai'i, Australia, New Zealand, and 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 1 to 3 semester hours at the undergraduate level (4271) or graduate level (6271) in Forestry and Natural Resources (FANR) or International Affairs (INTL).

### 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](mailto: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 [www.uga.edu/honors/forms/current\\_students/courses\\_and\\_adv/honors\\_option\\_app.pdf](http://www.uga.edu/honors/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 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 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. 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 or the program director, 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, at the discretion of the Program Director, be grounds for dismissal from the program.

### 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](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 before or at the UGA on-campus orientation and register with UGA Disability Resource Center ([www.drc.uga.edu](http://www.drc.uga.edu)). Some activities include moderate exercise, such as hiking and snorkeling.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Optional Reading

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

- Bryson, B. (2000). *In a sunburned country*. New York: Broadway Books.
- Clarke, M. (1970). *For the term of his natural life*. Adelaide: Rigby, Seal Books.
- Diamond, J. (1998). *Guns, germs, and steel: The fates of Human societies*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Hughes, Rr. (1987). *The fatal shore: The Epic of Australia's founding*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf Inc.
- Hulme, K. (1986). *The bone people: A novel*. Washington D.C.: Penguin Books.
- Ihimaera, W. (1987). *The whale rider*. Orlando: Harcourt Books.
- Low, T. (2002). *The new nature: Winners and losers in wild Australia*. Camberwell, Australia: Viking Australia.
- Morehead, A. (1966). *The fatal impact: The invasion of the South Pacific, 1767-1840*. London: Hamilton.
- Pilkington, D. & Garimara, N. (1996). *Follow the rabbit proof fence*. St. Lucia, Australia: University of Queensland Press.
- Rose, D. (1992). *Dingo makes us human: Life and land in an Aboriginal culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Shute, N. (1950). *The legacy (a town like Alice)*. New York: Morrow.

## Course Requirements

The student will work with the instructor to develop an independent project. The project must be submitted in an electronic format and may constitute a written report, presentation, portfolio, case examples, or any other medium approved by the instructor. The topic of the assignment must relate to the student's major discipline of study. It is expected that the project will represent the equivalent of 15 classroom contact hours plus independent reading per each (one) credit hour taken.

Submit one electronic (Word or .pdf) file in Arial 9.5 point font (single-spaced) titled "4271 <first and last name> <study abroad country>" including appendices to the Lead Instructor by April 30 at 5:00pm EST. There is a 10% penalty for each day the essay is received late and an additional 20% penalty if the essay does not conform to submission requirements. Include the date, as well as your first and last name on the header of the file.

## Additional Assignment for Graduate or Honors Option Credit

Graduate credit for the course requires that the quality of the submitted work 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.

## 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.