

## Welcome to the UGA Maymester Study Abroad in Australia and New Zealand

*Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment*

ANTH/ECOL/FANR/GEOG/INTL 4271/6271W\* (3 – 6 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)*

Lead Instructor: TBA  
Program Director: Dr. Michael Tarrant, Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA, [tarrant@uga.edu](mailto:tarrant@uga.edu)  
Office Address: *Discover Abroad*  
Building Four, Suite 102  
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources  
Athens, GA 30602-2152  
Telephone: 706-542-9713  
Website: [www.discoverabroad.uga.edu](http://www.discoverabroad.uga.edu)  
Contact Email: [discoverabroad@uga.edu](mailto:discoverabroad@uga.edu)

### 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 Australia and New Zealand. 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 can be taken alone (for 6 credits) or in conjunction with another course for (3 credits) – refer to section on *Course Credit* below for details.

\*FANR 4271/6271 meets requirements for the UGA Writing Certificate (4271/6271W). Students taking other prefixes (i.e., ANTH/ECOL/GEOG/INTL 4271) will need to contact the Discover Abroad office to request the W suffix

### 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 Australia and New Zealand, as presented in readings, seminars, lectures, and field activities.
2. Apply this knowledge to understand the complexity of sustainable development in Australia and New Zealand, 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 or 6 semester hours at the undergraduate level (4271) or graduate level (6271). Students must enroll in any **two** of the following course prefixes for 3 semester credits each (totaling 6 credits) or register for 3 credits of 4271 and 3 credits of BIOL/WILD 3720L (Field Animal Behavior), BIOL/FANR 3460(H) (Natural History of the South Pacific), or INTB 5100 (Special Topics in International Business).

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. Download and complete the Graduate Course Application form ([https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current\\_students/courses\\_and\\_adv/GraduateCourseApplication.pdf](https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current_students/courses_and_adv/GraduateCourseApplication.pdf)). Bring this form to the Discover Abroad office, and we will verify your GPA and credit hours. The Lead Instructor of the program and the head of the department of the prefix for which you are registering (e.g., Anthropology for ANTH 6271, Geography for GEOG 6271, etc) must sign this form.
2. Return the completed form to Moore College. The Honors program will verify the information on the form and add your name to the access list for the graduate-level course, thus allowing you to register. You need to complete one form for each separate course you are requesting for Honors credit.
3. There are additional requirements for graduate credit. See "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" below. Questions about graduate course credit may be directed to the Honors Program ([honors@uga.edu](mailto:honors@uga.edu)), Tel: 706.542.6938.

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

1. Download and complete the Honors Option Application form (the instructor must sign this) ([https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current\\_students/courses\\_and\\_adv/honors\\_option\\_app.pdf](https://honors.uga.edu/forms/current_students/courses_and_adv/honors_option_app.pdf))
2. Submit Part I of the form to Moore College for Honors program approval prior to the start of your study abroad course. You need to complete one form for each course.
3. There are additional requirements for Honors Option credit. See "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option Credit" below.
4. Complete Part II of the Honors Option form at the end of your course after submitting your additional Honors requirement to your professor. Your instructor must sign off on Part II and submit the form to the Honors program ([honors@uga.edu](mailto:honors@uga.edu)) for approval, Fax: 706.542.6993.

## 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.

## Required Reading

1. Tarrant, M.A. (2016). *Sustaining human societies and the natural environment*. Austin, TX: Sentia Publishing. Order online from <http://www.sentiapublishing.com/science/sustaining-human-societies-and-the-natural-environment-case-studies-in-australia-and-new-zealand-michael-a-tarrant-ebook-field-guide/> at least four weeks prior to your departure.
2. Tarrant, M.A. (2016). *New Zealand Plant Guide*. Austin, TX: Sentia Publishing. Order online per above.
3. Collection of readings and course material. Download from UGA e-Learning Commons ([www.elc.uga.edu](http://www.elc.uga.edu)) prior to departure. The files will be available 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:

- 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.
- Ihimaera, W. (1987). *The whale rider*. Orlando: Harcourt Books.
- Hulme, K. (1986). *The bone people: A novel*. Washington D.C.: Penguin 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

**Students taking the course for 3 credits only, complete the following:**

#### *Personal digital introduction (2%)*

Refer to the required reading *Sustaining human societies and the natural environment* (eBook) appendix for details on the structured process, assessment expectations, and submission requirements for the digital introduction.

#### *Pre-departure lectures and in-country quiz (13%)*

This quiz will be given on day two in country and will cover information from the pre-departure lecture. The quiz format will be mostly multiple-choice, but may also contain a few short answer and/or essay questions. This course requirement meets the following learning outcome(s): 1.

#### *Field modules (85%)*

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 required reading *Sustaining human societies and the natural environment* (eBook) appendix 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.

**Students taking the course for 6 credits, complete all of the course requirements listed above plus the following:**

#### *Field modules (60%)*

Additional field modules (as above). This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4.

### *Digital story (20%)*

Refer to the required reading *Sustaining human societies and the natural environment* (eBook) appendix for details on the structured process, assessment expectations, and submission requirements for the digital story. This course requirement meets the following learning outcomes: 3, 4.

### *Final exam – concepts quiz (20%)*

Refer to the required reading *Sustaining human societies and the natural environment* (eBook) appendix for details on assessment expectations and submission requirements for the concepts quiz. Date as listed on the itinerary. 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(s) 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. Each 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 “graduate credit <first and last name> <study abroad country>”) to the Lead Instructor within 4 weeks of the completion of the program. Failure to meet a passing grade for the assignment(s) and/or submit the assignment 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.

#### *Essay #1*

How sustainable is your community? (a) Compare and contrast the approaches to sustainability that you have observed in your study abroad program and those of your home community in the United States, (b) Identify key practices or ideas you observed that could be adopted in your own community that could enhance sustainability, and (c) Identify what you see as potential barriers to implementing these practices in your community and how they might be overcome. Be sure to investigate sustainability initiatives in your community in order to compare to your experiences. Some places to look include water and energy utility websites, county and city land use planning offices, and non-governmental organizations that focus on sustainability issues.

#### *Essay #2*

Sustainability revisited. The meaning of sustainability is debated among scholars and citizens alike. In fact, some argue that sustainability is not a goal at all, but a general guide for the policy choices that we make. Read the article by Robert Solow listed below (available on ELC) and provide a critique of sustainability as a concept. Is the triple bottom line an overly simple representation of sustainability? What else might we need to think about in order to create a world that can support human welfare into the foreseeable future? Does the triple bottom line adequately capture inter and intra generational equity, and how does this relate to human welfare and the choices that we make to develop or not develop natural resources currently?

Solow, R. (1993). Sustainability an economist's perspective. In R. Stavins Ed. *Economics of the Environment*. New York: Norton. pp 131-138. Retrieved from

### 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.