

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

*Natural History of the South Pacific*

BIOL/FANR 3460 or BIOL/FANR 3460H (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 explores the natural history of the South Pacific, with particular emphasis on New Zealand and Australia. With extensive field trips to nature reserves and parks, rain forests, coral reefs, coastlines, and mangrove forests, we will explore the natural history of the plants and animals of this region as well as how they interact with one another. We will also examine how the geology, climate, and peoples of the region have shaped the ecology and evolution of the organisms and how changing climatic conditions may affect them in the future. The course will involve a mix of extensive fieldwork, lectures, and independent projects and, because it is offered in conjunction with FANR 4271, *Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment*, students will understand how human societies have been shaped by and affected nature.

### Course Objectives

1. To demonstrate knowledge of the geology, biogeography, and ecology of the South Pacific;
2. To understand plant and animal diversity in selected habitats throughout the South Pacific;
3. To evaluate the role (and impact) of humans on the natural environments of the South Pacific.

### Course Credit

Credit is offered for 3 semester hours at the undergraduate level (3460) in BIOL (Biology) or FANR (Forestry and Natural Resources).

### Honors Option Credit

Honors students may obtain honors credit for BIOL/FANR 3460 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](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 Honors Option" below.

## Prerequisites

BIOL 1108/L and/or permission of honors/permission of instructor.

## 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.
- 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

#### *Field modules (70%)*

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.

#### *Final exam (30%)*

The exam may draw material from any reading, field exercise, lecture, or discussion, and you may refer to your notes from lectures and field activities. Approximately 70% of the exam will be short, objective (completion, multiple choice, t/f, etc.) questions drawn from lectures, field experiences, or readings, and 30% percent of the exam will be essay based. Date as listed on the itinerary.

### Additional Assignment for Honors Option Credit

Honors credit for the course requires 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. The essay is to be at least 1500 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 “honors option 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 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. The instructor must approve the topic before the essay is submitted. You will be expected to include external citations (which must be fully referenced in an accompanying annotated bibliography), and to write in a well-executed, grammatically correct and audience-appropriate style.

### 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