

Revised March 29, 2024

Field Studies in Sustainable Development
FANR 4273/6273S (3 credits)

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary

Course Instructor, Contact Details and Schedule

Instructors: Dr. Michael Tarrant, Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA, Tarrant@uga.edu

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Program Director: Dr. Michael Tarrant, Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA, Tarrant@uga.edu

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This is a field studies course taught overseas; refer to the sample itinerary.

Course Description

This field studies courses explores issues of sustainable development in predominantly urban (but also including rural and wildland interface) areas. The course focuses on issues of human and environment connections, including climate change, energy, and resource consumption; the dynamics of progressive communities; glocal education (understanding of global issues through local contexts); and sustainable planning through service-learning focused on personal development and leadership.

Course Prerequisites, Corequisites and Cross-listings

There are no prerequisites nor corequisites and students in good academic standing are eligible to take the course. This course fulfills the requirements of Forestry and Natural Resources (FANR) at the undergraduate (4273) or graduate (6273) levels. As always, confirm with your advisor how the course will count in your program of study. FANR 4273/6273 is designated as a UGA Service Learning (S) course.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. **Understand** the impacts of human actions on natural systems and human responses to those changes.
2. **Develop an appreciation** of ecological education, integrated natural resource management, and conservation.
3. **Apply an understanding** of course material to your own life and work.
4. **Examine the connections** between leadership and personal development through service learning.

Graduate and Honors Option Credit

Students who wish to take this course for honors credit will be required to register for the graduate version of the Course and complete "Additional Course Assignment for Graduate Credit and Honors Option" (see below). Questions about graduate course credit and how it works with your honors program of study may be directed to the [Honors Program](#)

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Participation Policy

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.

Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found [here](#). All academic work must meet the standards described in the [University's Culture of Honesty policy](#). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and this policy should be directed to the instructor. Unless explicitly stated, artificial intelligence-based technologies, such as ChatGPT, must not be used to generate responses for student assignments.

Required Course Material

Collection of readings and course material. Download from UGA e-Learning Commons (www.elc.uga.edu) prior to departure.

Course Requirements

Service learning in sustainability (40%)

A variety of service-learning and leadership assignments in sustainability that are location specific. For example, the creation of a commercially viable village cultural immersion program (Fiji), coral reef monitoring (Australia and/or Fiji), visitor capacity assessments (Australia and/or United Kingdom), ecology surveys (Hawai'i and/or New Zealand). Grading will be based on engagement (within the group and with external stakeholders), participation, and presentation of the product.

Field modules (60%)

The field modules are location-based questions including topics quizzes, 250-word essays, SSIs, research projects, thematic essay and/or digital story. Refer to the eBook Appendix for further details. Due dates as listed on the Course Itinerary.

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) and (2) a 40-minute presentation (individual or group) on a topic related to the service-learning assignment(s) (and decided upon with the instructor), to be delivered toward the end of the field course in-country.

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Grading Policy

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.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact [Student Care and Outreach](#); they will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for a student seeking [mental health services](#) or [crisis support](#). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit [BeWellUGA](#) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Accommodation Policy

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with the Disability Resource Center (Voice: 706-542-8719 or TTY: 706- 542-8778 or web: <https://drc.uga.edu/>) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

FERPA Notice

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the [registrar's explanation](#)