

Revised November 30, 2023

Field Studies in Conservation  
FORS 4270/6270 (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: 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)

Discover Abroad office: Warnell Building Four, Suite 102, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152  
T: 706.542.9713, E: [discoverabroad@uga.edu](mailto:discoverabroad@uga.edu), W: [discoverabroad.uga.edu](http://discoverabroad.uga.edu)

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

### Course Description

This experiential field program is appropriate for students of all disciplines and for anyone with an interest in the conservation, preservation, and natural and cultural history of the world's protected areas (including national parks, forests, and marine reserves). The course will cover topics including history of conservation and preservation (in the United States and/or globally); natural and cultural history of selected conservation and protected areas; the human dimensions of conservation; citizen science techniques and case studies; and/or wicked problems in conservation (and potential resolutions).

### Course Prerequisites, Corequisites and Cross-listings

There are no prerequisites nor corequisites and all students in good academic standing are eligible to take the course. This course fulfills the requirements of Anthropology (ANTH) and Forestry and Natural Resources (FANR) at the undergraduate (4270) or graduate (6270) levels. As always, confirm with your advisor how the course will count in your program of study. When registering, select only FORS 4270 or FORS 6270 for 3 credits.

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The focus of this experiential learning course is learning by doing; as such we will seek to:

1. **Actively engage** with the world's natural environments and protected areas
2. **Encourage self-awareness** through personal relationships with the natural world
3. **Promote creative discourse** on conservation and related topics
4. **Engage in citizen science activities** related to conservation
5. **Translate knowledge into informed values**, such that students can then engage in future discourse on conservation issues and related topics

### 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](#)

### 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

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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](http://www.elc.uga.edu)) prior to departure.

### Course Requirements

#### *Pre-departure assignments (10%)*

Instructions given in the pre-departure orientation.

#### *Participation and engagement (10%)*

Actively engage in all lectures, seminars, orientations, activities and presentations, citizen and service projects, and general tasks and duties. Any unexcused absences will result in an automatic loss of 2.5% per absence.

#### *Reflection exercises (10%)*

For selected activities, you will write or engage in a short reflection (~80-100 words). The purpose of this exercise is to encourage reflective thinking. Rather than writing a summary or description of what (or how) you have learned, reflective thinking begs you to consider the "so what" (how have you changed, if at all, and what does it mean for you moving forward). It's a three-stage process: Looking back, analyzing, and projecting into the future. Click [here](#) for a brief video introduction. **Complete by pencil and paper and hand-in or submit by email** (using subject heading <your last name reflection #X> at end of class.

#### *Field modules (30%)*

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.

#### *Final assignment (40%)*

An assignment covering all course material will be given toward the end of the course.

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### 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) an integrative essay on a conservation topic (to be decided upon with the instructor) that clearly demonstrates an ability to synthesize course concepts and field material.

The essay is to be 500 typed words (excluding references and any appendices) in Arial 10-point font (single-spaced) and emailed as one Word file (titled “graduate credit <your last name> FANR 6270”) to the instructor by the final day of the Course. Failure to meet a passing grade for the assignment 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.

### 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.

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### **FERPA Notice**

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