



Syllabus Fiji:
Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment
www.auiip.com/fiji

Please note: This syllabus is a general plan only and deviations may be necessary.

Instructors

- Faculty from home institution
- Supporting lectures from faculty at the University of the South Pacific
- Plus local field experts from leading environmental organizations in Fiji

Course description

This course will examine human and cultural aspects of Fijian ecology and resource conservation, as well as contemporary challenges to sustainability. Assessment will be delivered through educational travel, field trips, active participation, presentations and seminars, and coursework exercises. Some pre-departure preparatory work is also required.

Our experiential education focuses on learning through guided action. We spend 2-days taking introductory lectures followed by an 8-day field study which includes several days exploring the pristine coral reefs of the Mamanuca offshore islands, a homestay at a traditional Fijian village, and kayaking through the highland rainforests. These activities are all included in the program cost.

Course objectives

By the end of the program students will:

1. Understand the geography, ecology, natural history, and social/political contexts of the Fijian islands;
2. Understand the impacts of humans on the natural environment;
3. Develop a working understanding of traditional Fijian knowledge of the natural environment, such as in plant use and maritime and subsistence practices;
4. Be able to address relationships between human societies and their natural environments from multiple disciplinary perspectives and to develop a complex, multi-faceted and holistic view of human – environment connections that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries;
5. Work as an effective member of an interdisciplinary research team.

Credit

Students must register for a total of 3 semester credits (or 4 quarter credits) at either the undergraduate or graduate. Regardless of which course that the student registers for, all students will receive the same course material. There are multiple program dates, each with different accrediting institutions and course offerings. For a full list of course offerings please visit www.auiip.com/apply. To determine which credits you wish to register for, select (1) a program date (2) an institution, and (3) course prefix and number.

Transfer credit

The following institutions accept students from any school in the United States at in-state tuition rates:

- East Carolina University
- Oregon State
- SUNY-Brockport
- University of Florida
- University of Montana

Prerequisites



There are no pre-requisites, but eligible students must be accepted by AUIP and the accrediting institution and be in good academic standing at their home institution.

Attendance and lateness 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 field activities (such as hiking, snorkeling, swimming, kayaking, 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 activity will be assigned. An excused absence or decision not to participate in one or any of these field activities will not affect your grade for the course. During the field studies, no student is to leave the group without the consent of the faculty supervisor. Unless an absence is approved by one of the instructors or the program directors, students will lose 10% of their final grade for each day or part-day they fail to participate. Any unexcused absences or *continued late arrival* to program activities may, at the discretion of the Program Director, be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Academic honesty

All academic work must meet AUIP standards of academic honesty (as described in the AUIP Student Manual). Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Academic dishonesty is not just copying the work of others, but also includes such behaviors as tolerating the academic dishonesty of others or giving false reasons for failure to take a test.

Conduct regulations

All students must be familiar with the general conduct regulations described in the AUIP Student Manual. Failure to obey these policies may result in dismissal from the program, at the discretion of the Program Director.

Special accommodations

Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course must contact AUIP at least 4 weeks before the program begins. After that time, AUIP cannot guarantee that such needs can be accommodated. Some activities involve moderate exercise such as hiking and snorkeling, and participation is voluntary for all students.

Coursebook and required readings

The course reading packet will be available pre-departure at Bel-Jean Copy-Print Center, 163 E. Broad St., Athens, GA 30601 (Tel: 706-548-3648) and contains all the required readings and supporting materials for completing coursework plus some general helpful information. To order your course reading packet please follow the instructions at this link <http://www.bel-jean.com/contact-study-abroad.php>. **You must bring this with you as copies will not be available in-country.**

Pre-departure (optional) readings

For pre-departure reading, we recommend:

Fiji by Daryl Tarte

Fiji's Heritage by Kim Gravelle

Getting Stoned with the Savages by Maarten Troost

Pre-departure material

A series of pre-departure lectures and readings must be completed before the beginning of the program. Allow a minimum of ~6 hours to complete this material.

Course assignments



Pre-departure culture and geography quiz (10%) - Complete this assignment before you arrive in country as there will be no time to do this when you get there.

The pre-departure culture and geography quiz is found in the course reading packet and is due on the first day of the program). You will need to watch three one-hour pre-departure lectures (<http://www.auiip.com/departure>; User Name: student, Password: kiwiegg) and use the internet and/or library resources to complete the assignment.

Field modules and site quizzes (90%)

The modules relate what we learn in the classroom with field activities. The course-book readings and the field staff are your primary sources of information to help you complete the module questions. Note that the field experts are resources to help you complete the modules but not to provide you with answers; their role is to guide you in discovering them yourselves. Written answers to the module questions are due at intervals throughout the program (see itinerary); part of the module grades may also be based on field site quizzes as will be explained by the course instructor. Each module question will be graded as follows:

- A Explains the core concept(s) very clearly and with evidence of real thought, technically correct response, gives the most relevant and best examples, very clear and well-written, only relevant material included and thoughtfully concise.
- A- A very good answer, worthy of an A grade but may contain some minor content, grammatical, and/or editorial corrections.
- B+ A strong answer that clearly shows thorough understanding of the material but does not contain all the necessary content required.
- B Discernable evidence of grasp of concept, good and correct examples given, well-written, thoughtfully concise
- B- A well-written answer that contains most (but not all) of the content required and may suffer from some grammatical and/or editorial mistakes and omissions.
- C Adequate but limited grasp of core concept(s), some examples although not necessarily the best or most relevant, legible. May lack conciseness or clarity in the response.
- D Little or no grasp of core concept(s), or incorrect or no examples given, or hard to read or poorly written.
- F Fails to address the question, or little or no grasp of core concept and incorrect or no examples given, or illegible.

Additional course assignment for graduate credit

Graduate students will be required to submit an individual report (see below) which will be graded on a pass/fail basis. In addition to the report, graduate credit for the course requires that 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.

Two essays are required. Each essay must be 1000 words, typed (Times New Roman 10 point font) and single-spaced (with your name and page number on the header) and should be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment in MS Word to your instructor no later than one week after the program concludes. References and appendices are not included in the word limits. You will be expected to demonstrate an ability to synthesize concepts and material across the course using real-world scenarios, to include external references (which must be fully cited), and to write in a well executed, grammatically correct style. Essays will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

For the first essay, respond to the following question: "How did the study abroad experience influence your understanding of global and U.S. conservation issues?"

For the second essay, write a magazine or newspaper style article (that may include photographs and captions) that describes how you benefited from the study abroad experience.

Grade assessment

Final grades for all credits will be assessed together and as follows:

A	89.5 - 100 percent
B	79.5 - 89.4 percent
C	69.5 - 79.4 percent
D	59.5 - 69.4 percent
F	below 59.4 percent

Course topics

See the itinerary for a full list and schedule of field activities and lectures.