

University of Florida

Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management

**LEI 4955 Sustaining Humans and their Environment –
North Queensland, Australia**

Summer 2023

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Program Dates: May 16th – June 13th, 2023 (departure May 14th)

The Instructors: Faculty from the University of Florida.

Supporting lectures from faculty at James Cook University, Townsville and Cairns (Queensland, Australia)
Plus local field experts from leading environmental organizations in Australia

Course description

This 4-week study abroad program will examine the natural (and related social) history and environmental conservation of North Queensland, Australia. Queensland has a wonderful year-round tropical climate and boasts some of the most diverse and remarkable natural resources in the southern hemisphere. An initial stay on Magnetic Island (Townsville), with lectures from faculty at James Cook University will be followed by an exploration of the network of national parks, Tablelands, near outback, and coastal areas of northern Queensland, before visiting Sydney for a couple of days to complete the program. In the field, we will snorkel and explore the marine diversity of the Great Barrier Reef; learn about Aboriginal culture and history through interactions with indigenous communities; investigate natural resource management, tourism and ecotourism and farming practices in the Tablelands and the Outback; and hike through the tropical rainforest of the Daintree World Heritage Area to study the diverse wildlife and flora of Australia. These activities are all included in the program cost. Our program will focus on topics related to sustainable development (sustaining human societies and their natural environment) through educational travel, field trips, active participation, lecture presentations and seminars, and coursework exercises. The goal of this course is using the Queensland, Australia case to integrate the different perspectives of diverse natural, biological, and social science disciplines to improve understanding of relationships between human societies and the natural environment. The impact of humans on natural resources and their sustainable use and conservation will be emphasized.

Course objectives

By the end of the program students will:

1. Describe the history (natural and social), ecological diversity, economic development, and related social and cultural contexts of Australia through in-person exploration of North Queensland's network of National Parks and World Heritage Areas, which encompass the Outback, rainforests, coastlines, marine reserves, and offshore islands.
2. Recognize the impacts of human actions on the natural and socio-cultural systems, and human responses to those changes, using the case of North Queensland, Australia.
3. Apply a triple bottom line approach to sustainability (environmental, social, and economic) in the context of North Queensland, Australia and learn to live more sustainably in your own country.
4. Compare and contrast Australian Aboriginal and contemporary views of the world with those of your own country.
5. Explain relationships between human societies and their natural and socio-cultural environments from multiple disciplinary perspectives and apply these perspectives to your own country.

Credit

Students must register for a total of 6 semester credits in LEI 4955 for UF credit:

LEI 4955 (6 credits) Sustaining Humans and their Environment –North Queensland, Australia

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, but highly encouraged 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 your faculty member (i.e., UF excused absence), 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 in consultation with UFIC and UF.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Academic honesty

All academic work must meet AUIP and UF standards of academic honesty (as described in the AUIP Program Handbook and the UF Honor Code). 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.

As a reminder the UF academic integrity policy is as follows:

We expect every member of the class to uphold the Honor Code: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code, please see:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Conduct regulations.

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

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.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the UF Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

Course reading packet (aka module book)

STUDENT ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS for course reading packet (Module Book):

Here is the direct link to order **your Course Reading Packet** for the University of Florida-North Queensland, Australia packet:

<https://bel-jean.com/collections/study-abroad-auip/products/university-of-florida-north-queensland-australia-1>

You will receive a direct email from Mr Haven Luke from Bel-Jean Copy/Print Centre confirming your order, your shipping address, and indicating both the ship date and the date you should receive your packet. This will also give you a direct line to communicate with Mr Luke if there are any problems.

All packets ship out the following business day after being ordered. For most locations, this means your packet will reach its **destination 5 business days after being ordered.**

You must bring this with you. The course book will not be available in Australia. **It is advised that you look at the module questions and complete the associated readings before leaving the US.**

Course assignments

1a. Pre-departure culture and geography quiz and short questions (pre and post trip) (10%)

The pre-departure culture and geography quiz is found in the course reading packet (module book). You will need to use the internet and/or library resources to complete the assignment which is to be handed in on the first day of the program and *must be completed before you arrive in country as there will be no time to do this when you get there.*

1b. Pre-departure short questions

There are no right or wrong answers for this assignment. In essay form please answer the three questions in the attached file. Please type your responses in Times Roman 12-point font. Please upload the word file to **Canvas by May 12th at 11.59pm.**

Completion of this assignment will be noted by your submission on canvas.

2. Field modules (essays, research projects, debates) and site quizzes (60%)

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. **Look at the itinerary to see the module due dates**; part of the module grades are based on field site quizzes and individual debate grades. Each module essay and other written assignments will be graded on these criteria and associated with the following range of points (10 points per essay unless otherwise stated):

- 10 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.
- 9 A very good answer, worthy of an A grade but may contain some minor content, grammatical, and/or editorial corrections.
- 8 A strong answer that clearly shows thorough understanding of the material but does not contain all the necessary content required.
- 7 Discernable evidence of grasp of concept, good and correct examples given, well-written, thoughtfully concise
- 6 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.
- 5 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.
- 4 Little or no grasp of core concept(s), or incorrect or no examples given, or hard to read or poorly written.
- E Fails to address the question, or little or no grasp of core concept and incorrect or no examples given, or illegible.

Please see the Module Introduction in the Course Reading Packet. The introduction will provide more details about writing essays and how to complete other assignments that make up our program.

3a. Final exam (30%)

The final exam will be open notes and comprehensive across the program, and may draw material from any reading, field exercises, lectures, or discussions. The exam will be comprised of a mixture of questions including multiple-choice, essay and short answer. **The exam is scheduled for our second day in Cairns.** Please look at the itinerary.

3b. Post Program short questions

There are no right or wrong answers for this assignment. In essay form please answer the six questions in the attached file. Please type your responses in Times Roman 12-point font. Please upload your file to Canvas by **June 20th at 11.59pm.**

Completion of this assignment will be noted by your submission to Canvas.

Grade assessment

The UF grading system will be used for this class. This grading scale includes minus grades. More details can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Topics and Dates

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

Course Evaluation. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

In-Class Recording: • Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

Health and Wellbeing: Your well-being is important to UF. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at (352) 392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to Victim Advocates,

Housing Staff and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 911. **Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength In case of emergency call 000 (Australia).** There are additional resources on your Emergency Card.

In a study abroad context, we are often outside of the reach of typical campus resources.

So, when in distress, please talk to your faculty member or TA. If you do not feel comfortable doing this, please confide in a friend and ask them to talk with the faculty member or TA.

It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class; and that you are comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. If your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or otherwise. I would like to acknowledge your preferred name, and pronouns that reflect your identity. Please let me know how you would like to be addressed in class, if your name and pronouns are not reflected by your UF-rostered name. I welcome you to the class and look forward to a rewarding learning adventure together.