Winter 2019 BIOL 271 Global Studies in Conservation and Sustainability Course syllabus (DRAFT)

Instructor: Kiyoko Yokota, Ph.D., CLM E-mail: Kiyoko.Yokota@oneonta.edu Offices: Science 1 Building (Sci1) 114

Office phone: 607.436.3742 (campus phone, voicemail forwarded to email)

• Email is usually the best way to reach me

Class meets from 26 December 2018 to 13 January 2019

Credit: 2 semester hours

Office hours: as needed during the trip

Course Description (as of 27 December 2017)

- An experiential learning course with an international immersion component focusing on conservation and sustainability efforts outside the U.S. The class meets regularly on campus during the semester and travels to an international destination after the finals week to complete the course. Course grade is based on student performance from both on- and off-campus components. Involves international travel with multiple modes of transportation, intensive cultural immersion, physical activities outdoors in various weather and terrain, and dormitory-style group accommodation with limited amenities. Costs shared by students. Offered Fall only.
- Liberal Arts (LA); Sustainability Focused (SUSF)
- Prerequisites: sophomore standing (SoS); BIOL 181, ENVS 101 or ENVS 110.

Revised Course Description (pending approval)

- A 2.5-week long international immersion course on conservation and sustainability efforts outside the U.S. Course grade is based on quizzes, a reflective travel journal, and active and meaningful participation. Involves international travel with multiple modes of transportation, intensive cultural immersion, physical activities outdoors in various weather and terrain, and dormitory-style group accommodation with limited amenities. Students must cover program cost in addition to regular tuition. Offered in conjunction with an on-campus special topics course during the preceding fall semester. Offered every other Winter.
- Liberal Arts (LA); Sustainability Focused (SUSF)
- Prerequisites: sophomore standing (SoS); BIOL 181, ENVS 101 or ENVS 110.

Course objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. understand origin, structure and function of the target ecosystem
- 2. explain currently observed anthropogenic effects on the target ecosystem and possible consequences of inappropriate planning and management
- 3. characterize current efforts to protect, restore and sustainably manage the affected habitats from both biological and social/cultural perspectives. This objective will be achieved through the following activities: field experience including seminars by local researchers and practitioners, service learning, and guided tours, hikes and cruise.
- 4. develop own idea on how one can meaningfully contribute to conservation and sustainability efforts around the world

Required textbooks: none

Additional readings

- Additional reading materials will be posted on Blackboard (Bb). Students are responsible for reading them prior to class as specified. No hard copies are provided.
- Personal acquisition of a travel guide and/or a basic Japanese travel phrase book is recommended.

Course web site & oneonta.edu e-mail

- "BIOL-271" on Blackboard (Bb) access through myoneonta.edu
 - o It is your responsibility to check this course on Bb on a regular basis. Important course information, including your scores and copies of selected handouts, are posted on Bb.
- It is imperative that you **check your oneonta.edu e-mail account on a daily basis**. Back up important messages and keep your mailbox well under capacity.
- The course materials on Bb, including the score database, will become unavailable once the final course grade is submitted to the Registrar's office.

Attendance and participation policy

- You are expected to fully participate in every class meeting to receive credit for this course, unless an alternate arrangement has been made between the student and the instructor in advance.
- The travel component of this course include field work, which will take place rain or shine except for extreme conditions (strong wind or lightening, for example). Students are expected to pay attention to pre-trip instructions, be dressed accordingly and bring appropriate gear.
- Students with a diagnosed disability that may interfere with full participation in field work and/or lectures must work with me at the start of the semester to arrange for suitable accommodations.
- Participation means undivided attention to class activities and not disrupting others from paying undivided attention. Power off or silence and stow away items that are not essential for the class, such as mobile phones, music players, headphones and earbuds. If a student fails to follow this rule despite a warning from the instructor, s/he will be expelled from the classroom for the rest of the class period.
 Repeat offenders will be reported according to the Code of Student Conduct (http://www.oneonta.edu/development/judicial/code.pdf).

Absences and conditions for make-ups

- Contact me in advance if you are going to miss a class for an excusable reason (academic or athletic conference, medical procedures, holiday for a religion that you actively practice, etc.) and would like a chance to make up for at least part of the missed work and/or to make alternate arrangements for assignments and exams. In case of an emergency, contact me as soon as the problem arises. In all cases, obtain and submit official documentation (physician or nurse's note, police report, etc.) if you wish to make up the work that you missed.
 - Absences related to religious observances and scheduled military training sessions (ROTC and reserves) must be arranged at least one week in advance.
- Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, students have full responsibility for obtaining information and assignments covered during their absence.
- I do not have lecture notes or slides that replicate learning processes that took place in the classroom.
 Students are welcome to come to my office hour and take notes from <u>specific</u> slides that they wish to re-examine to fill occasional gaps in note taking; however, neither electronic nor hard copies of the slides will be provided.
- Make-ups for quizzes and exams are only permitted with excused absences supported by official documents.

Evaluation

- Your learning in the course will be evaluated through the following activities:
 - o In-country quizzes I and II

100 points each, 200 points total

Travel journal (due when you board the plane to NY)

150 points

• There will be **no "curving"** – your achievement will be evaluated on an absolute scale. **No extra credit** assignments will be given in this course.

Grading (incl. late assignment policy)

- The guaranteed thresholds for the course grades are (in points):
 - A ≥ 419, A- ≥ 405, B+ ≥ 392, B ≥ 374, B- ≥ 360, C+ ≥ 347, C ≥ 329, C- ≥ 315, D+ ≥ 302, D ≥ 284, D- ≥ 270, E < 270
 - o Rounding, if applicable, will take place at the level of 1/10th of a point.
 - 404.8 points \rightarrow 405 points = A-
 - 379.3 points → 379 points = B
 - o The thresholds may be lowered if deemed necessary, while they will not be raised in any event.
- No letter grades are assigned to individual exams or quizzes.
- It is your responsibility to submit your assignments on time in the requested format and in a condition that is ready to be graded. If hard copies are required, electronic copies are not acceptable; if electronic copies are required, hard copies are not acceptable. Lab reports and research papers lacking a required component (e.g., a bibliography or appendix) as of the submission deadline are considered incomplete and marked accordingly, resulting in zero point for the missing components.
- Assignments are **due precisely at the beginning of the class**. Anything submitted after the "last call", made at the start of the class, is considered late, whether it is 2 minutes late or 20 minutes late.
- Late assignments will incur penalties as below. Weekends and collage holidays are included in calculation of late penalties.
 - o After the "last call" but before the end of the class period: 10 %
 - After the end of the class period but before 4:00 pm on the same day: additional -10 % (- 20 % total)
 - Each day afterwards (daily cutoff = 4:00 pm): additional -20 %

Example: An assignment has a raw score of 40. It was due on Wednesday at the start of the lab.

1) received at 3:00 pm on Thursday of the same week -> -40%

Final score =
$$40 * (1-0.4) = 40 * 0.6 = 24$$

2) received at 4:30 pm on Thursday of the same week -> -60%

Final score =
$$40 * (1-0.6) = 40 * 0.4 = 16$$

3) received at 9:00 am on Monday of the following week -> -120%

Final score = 0

- Reports and papers containing any form of plagiarism, whether intentional or not, will not be graded and are subject to severe sanctions (refer to the section on Academic Integrity below).
- All answers are graded according to their quality. Excessively long papers and answers will receive a low
 grade for lack of conciseness. Careful proofreading maximizes the quality of your work while poor
 spelling, grammar, and formatting distract readers and can dramatically reduce the perceived value of
 your work.
- Any questions related to grading (other than simple mistakes in adding up points and data entry error)
 must be raised in writing within one week after an assignment or exam is returned.
- Students are responsible for checking their scores on Blackboard (Bb) as soon as an assignment or exam is returned. Discrepancy between scores on paper and Bb database can be fixed by bringing in the original graded paper within two weeks after it was returned in class. In other words, I expect students to review their graded items right after they receive them, and I do not deal with attempts to retroactively earn points from exams and quizzes that were returned weeks ago.

Academic integrity

- I expect students to take full ownership of their work. Individual assignments must be completed individually you may discuss the assignment with your classmates, but the final work that you submit must be your own. Anything borrowed from outside sources must be properly cited in a standard format; otherwise it will constitute plagiarism, a type of academic dishonesty (see below).
- I do not tolerate any forms of academic dishonesty or scientific misconduct. Students are held responsible for fully understanding and following SUNY Oneonta's Student Conduct Code (http://www.oneonta.edu/library/policies/academichonesty.asp), which includes the College's policy on academic integrity.
- Sanctions for academic dishonesty include a failing grade in an assignment/exam or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the College. I take academic integrity very seriously, and therefore will monitor all submissions and exams for violations of the academic integrity policy. If you have any questions about the policy or the way it is applied, please feel free to talk with me.

Emergency Evacuation/Shelter-in-Place Procedures

• In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., fire or other emergency), classes meeting in Science I are directed to reassemble in front of **Chase Gym** so that all persons can be accounted for. Complete details of the College's emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and other emergency procedures can be found at http://www.oneonta.edu/security/.

Special accommodations

• Students requiring an accommodation are responsible for communicating their needs to the professor at the start of the semester.

Travel equirements

- To participate in this faculty-lead study abroad course, students are required to go through the standard application and admission process for study abroad through the Office of International Education (OIE). Students are responsible for arranging and paying for their own passports and visas (if required). SUNY Oneonta's Student Conduct Code applies throughout the travel component on the course, and violations will be reported and sanctioned in the same manner as an on-campus incident. We will travel as a group from a major airport in the U.S. Northeast and back. Students are responsible for their own transport to/from the specified U.S. airport and meals that are not organized as a group meal.
- This is a course that immerses students in field experience in a different culture, and students are expected to be flexible and resilient. Please be mindful that you are a guest in a foreign country and try to make the most out of the experience. If you are shocked or feel uncomfortable about something, please share it with your class you probably are not the only one who feels that way, and analyzing and understanding why we feel that way is an important part of studying abroad.

Travel component itinerary (preliminary – dependent on ferry schedule and air ticket price/availability)

Dec. 26	Leave from JFK Airport
	(you must be at the airport 3 hours before flight departure)
	Direct flight preferred (~14 hours)
Dec. 27	Arrive at Narita Airport (NRT) (late pm), take a train to metro Tokyo,
	overnight at Tokyo Central Youth Hostel (TCYH) (bunk rooms)
Dec. 28	Rest and adjust to new time zone and prepare for the ferry journey (grocery shopping, etc.), overnight at TCYH
Dec. 29	Leave Tokyo via Ogasawara Maru ferry (10 am, 25 hr journey, sleep on board)
Dec. 30	Arrive Chichi Jima (around 1 pm), van or bus to Shanti Bungalow (SB) (bunk
200.00	rooms), overnight at SB
Dec. 31-Jan. 8	Various learning activities as listed below, local transport by the village bus, on
	foot, vehicles driven by licensed nature guides, or a chartered bus.
	(Exact dates will be determined after the ferry schedule is published; some
	flexibility will be built in as some are weather dependent.) (Stay at SB)
Jan. 9	Leave Ogasawara via Ogasawara Maru ferry (noon, 25 hr journey, sleep on
	board)
Jan. 10	Arrive Tokyo (late afternoon), take a train and overnight at TCYH
Jan. 11	Visit TMU and cultural sites in Tokyo via train and subway, overnight at TCYH
Jan. 12	Free day in Tokyo, overnight at TCYH
Jan. 13	Take train to NRT, fly back to JFK (afternoon, ~15 hours on a direct flight)
Jan. 13	Arrive JFK

Planned field activities and biological topics addressed:

- Lecture and service learning at the Ogasawara Marine Center (sea turtle conservation, challenges of protecting migratory animals) http://www.ogasawaramura.com/en/play/guide/kaiyoucenter.html
- Lecture by a researcher from the Ogasawara Whale Watching Association (behavior of cetaceans, human-wildlife conflict, sustainable ecotourism) http://www.owa1989.com/english
- A day of whale/dolphin watching cruise on a glass bottom boat (cetacean behavior and marine biodiversity) http://www.chichijimapinkdolphin.jp/english.html
- A long hike (2.5 hr each way) through the forests to the pristine John Beach (study of terrestrial and coastal habitats and biodiversity) (#10 on http://www.travel-around-japan.com/k38-11-chichijima.html)
- Guided night hike and/or sea kayaking (study of terrestrial and coastal habitats)
- Lecture and service learning at the Japanese Woodpigeon sanctuary (as mentioned in the Biology Seminar talk) (invasive species control, restoration and management of damaged habitats)
- Estuarine ostracod sampling (field work) and cultural exchange with Ogasawara High School students
- Tour of historical sites (history and culture, which are strongly influenced by the biota)
- Traditional craft using local plant materials (ethnobotany)
- Lecture and service learning at Morimoto Organic Farm (sustainable community-supported farming, nutrient cycling, closed-loop food production system, minimizing ecological footprint, value-added agriculture)
- Beach/park clean-up, etc. (long-range transport of anthropogenic pollutants)