**Australia**

Rainforest, Reef, and Cultural Ecology

Examine the ecological and cultural patterns, processes, and dynamics of Australia’s two most diverse environments—the Wet Tropics Bioregion and the Great Barrier Reef.

**Coursework**

**Rainforest, Reef, and Cultural Ecology Seminar**
ENVI 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours
An interdisciplinary course with lectures, discussions, required readings, and relevant educational excursions. The course aims to develop students’ knowledge and appreciation of the species- and systems-level ecological patterns, processes, and human influences affecting the Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef bioregions. Resources utilized in the delivery of course content may include the Lizard Island Research Station, Wet Tropics Management Authority, and Aboriginal elders.

Seminar topics typically include:

**Marine Ecology**
The evolution and geomorphology of the Great Barrier Reef; biology and ecology of coral reef invertebrates, reef fishes, and nearshore environments; relationships among fishing, tourism, the economy, and the conservation of coral reef environments.

**Rainforest Ecology**
Ecology and evolution of Australian rainforests from Gondwana to the present; plant-animal adaptation and interactions; speciation processes and biogeography of the Wet Tropics; structural classification of rainforest systems; landscape ecology and conservation biology; application of ecological principles to rainforest conservation; role of ecology in conservation issues, organization, and activism.

**Aboriginal Conceptions of the Natural Environment**
Aboriginal worldview and perceptions of land and the environment; land rights and the role of traditional ecological knowledge in sustainable management of protected areas in north Queensland; traditional lifestyles and contemporary challenges; ethnobotany; non-indigenous perceptions of contemporary Aboriginal issues; Aboriginal cultural survival.

**Conservation Biology and Environmental Philosophy**
Environmental values; conservation ethics; traditional and contemporary human involvement with nature; conservation politics; history of the environmental movement; nature conservation strategies; economics and utilitarianism in conservation debates.

**Educational Excursions**
The program includes extensive field excursions to a wide array of ecologically significant sites in the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics World Heritage areas as well as in the outback. Field excursions to marine, coastal, and upland habitats emphasize a synthetic approach to understanding the influence of biophysical factors on both natural and human-dominated systems. In addition to investigating the biodiversity of the rainforest and reef, students explore cultural considerations and perspectives of Aboriginal traditional owners during course excursions.

**Environmental Field Study Seminar**
ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
A course in research methods in both the social and natural sciences. The main focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data. Students develop the capacity for critical understanding and evaluation of program-related environmental issues. The seminar is a springboard for the Independent Study Project and includes consideration of field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Field study topics include designing and implementing reef and rainforest research projects, writing a research proposal, interviewing, surveying, and maintaining a field journal. Specific ecological field study methods may include micro- and macrohabitat analysis, biotic sampling and analysis, fauna and flora identification, biodiversity monitoring, population analysis, animal behavior, climate analysis, and remote sensing.

**Independent Study Project**
ISPR 3000 / 6 credits / 180 class hours
Conducted in an approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** the feeding behavior of the platypus; recovery of coral deposits from temperature-induced stress; feeding ecology of coral reef fishes; integrated catchment management; reforestation corridors as habitat; conservation issues affecting koalas and Tasmanian devils; wet sclerophyll fire regimes; environmental education; effects of education on public perceptions of flying foxes; acoustic conditioning of coral reef fishes.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at [www.sit.edu/ASE](http://www.sit.edu/ASE).
Australia

Sustainability and Environmental Action

Acquire methods, tools, and different perspectives on how to make our societies more sustainable.

Coursework

Sustainability and Environmental Action Seminar
ENVI 3000 / 8 credits / 120 class hours
An interdisciplinary course with required readings and relevant educational excursions focusing on an analysis of efforts to pursue sustainability in Australia. Lecturers include the leaders of prominent conservation organizations, professionals from a wide range of disciplines who are leaders in introducing the concepts of sustainability in their fields, and Aboriginal elders who share their cultural understanding of what it means to live sustainably.

Seminar topics typically include:
The Natural Environment
Climate, geology, soils, geomorphology, ecology, and ecosystems of Australia and selected regions; coastal processes; ecological processes and biodiversity; environmental limits on development; ecological history of Australia and its peoples.

Environmental Psychology and Ethics
Environmental psychology; environmental philosophy and paradigms; ethics; history of the environmental movement; social justice and the environment; the nature of social change; sense of place.

Aboriginal Relationships to the Land
Indigenous ecological knowledge; Aboriginal worldview; traditional and contemporary Aboriginal environmental management; Aboriginal impact on the environment.

Sustainability
Climate change; analysis of population growth and resource use; strategic planning; sustainable agriculture and permaculture; sustainable building design; sustainable energy; forestry; tourism; waste management; steady state societies and economics; globalization and localization; nature conservation and park management.

Social Change and Environmental Action
Theories of social change and social marketing; history of social change and environmental action; campaigns by vested interests to resist social change; analysis of past environmental campaigns; designing successful environmental campaigns.

Educational Excursions
Much of the teaching and learning in this program occurs in the field, and excursions are totally integrated with other elements. The major field excursion is to the beautiful and sparsely populated island-state of Tasmania, where students spend a week studying sustainability issues related to forestry, hydroelectricity, tourism, and protected areas in addition to the history of the conservation movement. On this excursion the group spends an additional four days in Melbourne and Sydney, the two largest cities in Australia, studying examples of urban sustainability.

The other main excursion is a four-day camping trip in Northern New South Wales, where students camp with Aboriginal elders and develop a deeper knowledge of Aboriginal cultures and bush skills.

There are also a number of one-day field excursions around Byron Bay and Lismore, to examine the natural environment, sustainable house design, eco-communities, organic farming, permaculture, community gardens, and renewable energy technologies. In each location visited, students are introduced to the area’s climate, geology, geomorphology, soils, and flora and fauna, as well as its human history and culture, in order to instill a sense of place and provide a basis for understanding the unique management issues of each region.

Research Methods and Ethics
ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; content analysis; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; and maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 5 credits / 150 class hours
Conducted in northern New South Wales or in another approved location appropriate to the project. Students can undertake a traditional research project, produce a creative work ranging from paintings to creative writing, or complete an internship with an appropriate organization. All projects must relate to some aspect of sustainability. Sample topic areas: the effect of dolphin feeding on environmental perceptions of tourists; changes in native vegetation following fires; creating a work of art to promote awareness of forest dieback; a piece of creative travel writing focusing on the meaning of “sense of place”; an analysis of sustainability initiatives at Australian airports; an internship at a community garden; the conservation of native fauna; a feasibility study for the introduction of solar energy at an Australian university; the role of art in promoting sustainability; conceptions of wilderness in Tasmania.
Brazil

Amazon Resource Management and Human Ecology

Explore natural resource management and human ecology in diverse settings across the Amazon River Basin.

Coursework

Lecturers are drawn from local institutions located in Belém, Santarém, and other program sites including Universidade Federal do Pará (UFPa), Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi (MPEG), Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisas Agropecuárias (EMBRAPA), Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Instituto do Homem e do Meio Ambiente na Amazônia (Imazon), Fundação Xingú Vivo, and the Brazil Landless Workers Movement (MST).

Natural and Human Ecology in the Amazon
ENVI 3005 / 3 credits / 45 hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in English and Portuguese with required readings. This is a dynamic course that surveys the principle ecosystems of the Brazilian Amazon and the human populations that impact the natural resource base in the region. Students conduct field exercises in diverse ecosystems, from coastal mangroves to the Terra Firme dry land forests in the interior of the Amazon. Course topics typically include historical overview; inhabitants of the region: indios, quilombolas, caboclos, colonos, and urbanos; biophysical geography and regional ecosystems; and forest fragmentation and succession dynamics.

Resource Management and Socio-environmental Conflicts in the Amazon
ENVI 3000 / 3 credits / 45 hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in English and Portuguese, with required readings, examining the current environmental conflicts affecting the Brazilian Amazon. Direct field observations are a central component of the course. Course topics typically include economics of tropical deforestation, conservation units, government policies, roles of nongovernmental organizations, international perspectives, environmental economics, agriculture and agribusiness, agroforestry, resource extraction (timber, water, ranching, mining, fishing, and hunting), hydroelectricity and energy production, non-timber forest products, ecotourism, land distribution and conflicts, and MST.

Educational Excursions
Students on this program generally take educational excursions to the following locations: Curuçá, Zona Bragantina, the Trombetas River system, Juruti, Santarém, Altamira, Tucuruí, Jacundá, Marabá, and Parauapebas. Students visit a rural caboclo community to learn how the community maintains its livelihood from traditional resource extraction. Excursion sites may vary according to semester logistics and site conditions.

Intensive Language Study: Portuguese for the Natural Sciences
PORT 1000–3500 / 3 credits / 45 hours
Emphasis on oral and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in small, intensive classes. Special arrangements are available for advanced speakers of Portuguese.

Environmental Research Methods and Ethics
ENVI 3500 / 3 credits / 45 hours
A course in research methods in the natural sciences focusing on how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report ecological data to critically understand and evaluate program-related environmental issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project, research ethics, and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Field studies are focused on designing and structuring a research project; writing a research proposal; collecting and analyzing data (social and natural/qualitative and quantitative); understanding and accounting for research ethics in an intercultural context; and maintaining a field journal.

Program Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits 16
Program Base Belém
Language Study Portuguese
Homestay Belém, 4 weeks
Rural Visits/Homestays Caboclo community, 3–4 days; Colonos community, usually with Landless Workers Movement (MST), 3–4 days
Other Accommodations Small hotels and a short stay on a riverboat
Independent Study Project 4 weeks
Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework and/or other preparation in environmental studies, ecology, development studies, or other related fields is strongly recommended but not required. Although there is no language prerequisite, a background in Portuguese, Spanish, or another Romance language is recommended.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in Belém, Santarém, or in another approved location in the Brazilian Amazon appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: land use within MST communities; environmental consciousness; water management, aquaculture, and fishing; agroecology; environmental policy; mining; alternative energy resources; alternative farming practices; ecotourism; informal market economics; waste management; management of conservation units; sustainable hunting practices.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/BRA.
Ecuador

Comparative Ecology and Conservation

Explore tropical ecosystems and the complexities of human adaptations to different environments in Ecuador’s four distinct ecological regions.

Coursework

Comparative Tropical Ecology
ENVI 3005 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish and English with required readings, educational excursions, and independent observations. Utilizing a comparative approach, students examine Ecuador’s four distinct ecological regions (Sierra, Coast, Amazon, and Galápagos), focusing on biodiversity and conservation. Course content is delivered during weeklong excursions and day trips as well as in the classroom in Quito.

Conservation and Sustainability Practices in Ecuador
ENVI 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish and English with required readings, educational excursions, and independent observations. The course focuses on the different environmental threats and issues that Ecuador is currently facing, including the study of private and governmental policies and management, in the context of local, national, and global development pressures. Students engage in analyses of relevant human, historical, cultural, and economic issues. The course presents different conservation and sustainability examples as well as alternatives and proposals for the conservation of Ecuador’s natural resources and human quality of life.

Educational Excursions
Three week-long excursions and several day trips throughout the semester introduce students to Ecuador’s unique ecosystems, ecology, dynamics, flora, and fauna. Students spend time in the Ecuadorian Amazon, in a cloud forest reserve, in the páramo, in the Andean highlands, and on the Galápagos Islands, among other destinations.

Intensive Language Study: Spanish for the Natural Sciences
SPAN 2000–3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
Emphasis on communicative competence, speaking, reading, and writing skills, through classroom and field instruction. Includes a special focus on building language skills applicable to the study of the natural sciences and ecology and conservation themes. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in small, intensive classes, with further practice during homestays, lectures, and field visits.

Environmental Research Methods and Ethics
ENVI 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
A course in research methods in the social and natural sciences, focusing on how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data to understand and evaluate environmental issues. Reciprocity and environmental sustainability principles and practices form part of the curriculum. Introduction to the Independent Study Project (ISP). Students receive training in field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy prior to the ISP period. Ecological field study methods are based on hands-on activities including micro- and macrohabitat analysis; biotic sampling and analysis; fauna and flora identification; biodiversity monitoring, including species richness and biodiversity indices; population analysis; animal behavior; climate analysis; soil and water analysis; and remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems.

Environmental Research Methods
ENVI 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
A course in research methods in the social and natural sciences, focusing on how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data to understand and evaluate environmental issues. Reciprocity and environmental sustainability principles and practices form part of the curriculum. Introduction to the Independent Study Project (ISP). Students receive training in field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy prior to the ISP period. Ecological field study methods are based on hands-on activities including micro- and macrohabitat analysis; biotic sampling and analysis; fauna and flora identification; biodiversity monitoring, including species richness and biodiversity indices; population analysis; animal behavior; climate analysis; soil and water analysis; and remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted throughout Ecuador based on requests from local organizations and communities. Sample topic areas: flora or fauna census; biodiversity and population assessments; endangered species and conservation efforts; shark fishing; soil or water studies; geology related to ecology and conservation; community conservation projects; local reserves’ management needs; environmental movements; traditional agriculture; mining or petroleum industry environmental implications and/or alternatives; impact of tourism on local communities; environmental education.
Mongolia

Geopolitics and the Environment

Examine international relations, natural resource management, nomadic traditions, and economic growth from Mongolia’s unique vantage point.

Coursework

Lecturers on this program are drawn from the National University of Mongolia and central and local governmental organizations as well as international and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Geopolitics and Development Trends

ASIA 3010 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This interdisciplinary course focuses on Mongolia’s path to political and economic development and the country’s current strategies for external relations and internal growth. Government policies for international investment and the shifting political discourses about domestic investment form the background against which Mongolia’s development strategy is analyzed. The course centers on two themes: Mongolia’s diplomatic efforts and engagement with China, the two Koreas, and Japan within the geopolitics of northeastern Asia, and Mongolia’s development policies and attempts to address issues of rapid urbanization and growth.

Pastoralism and Natural Resource Management

ASIA 3020 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
This interdisciplinary course focuses on Mongolia’s nomadic population and the impact of political, social, and economic transformations and national resource management policies on Mongolia’s social, cultural, and physical environments. Students study the traditions of Mongolia’s nomadic communities and the challenges for this population as a result of Mongolia’s political transformations and development policies. They also examine Mongolia’s attempt to create a national resource management policy that balances conservation and traditional practices with the demands of the mining industry and other modern business and economic development opportunities.

Educational Excursions

The program includes visits to important Mongolian historical, religious, and natural sites to complement the academic program and interdisciplinary courses. Excursion locations typically include Erdenet, Mongolia’s third-largest city; Erdene Zuu Monastery—built on the ruins of Kharkhorin, the ancient Mongolian capital; Amarbayasgalant Monastery; and Khamrin Hildi/Khamar Monastery. Students also participate in a ger (nomadic dwelling) camp stay. Some excursions include horseback riding. Please note that excursion locations can vary between the fall and spring semester, depending upon seasonal travel conditions.

Intensive Language Study: Mongolian

MONG 1000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
Emphasis on introductory speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Classes are conducted by trained Mongolian language instructors. Before the program begins, students are asked to acquaint themselves with the modern Cyrillic alphabet. Language training starts immediately after students arrive in Mongolia and continues during field excursions. Options are available for students with some background in the Mongolian language.

Research Methods and Ethics

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; working with an interpreter/translator; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; and maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in an approved location in Mongolia appropriate to the project. Sample topic areas: nomadic organization in transition; the transition from nomadic herder to urban wage-seeker; cashmere trade and cultural interaction with China and Russia; Buddhist debate and monastic education; Buddhist painting, sculpture, and architecture; revival of shamanism; symbols of collectivism and pastoralism in daily life; education policy since Soviet disintegration; the shagai tradition; traditional perceptions and modern practical use of Mongolian medicinal plants; prudent natural resource management and regional politics; the Mongolians of Kazakh descent and their place in modern Islam.
Madagascar

Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management

Explore environmental challenges, conservation, and development strategies in Madagascar, an island nation isolated from neighboring landmasses for more than one hundred million years.

Coursework

Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Seminar
ENVI 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted primarily in French with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The focus is on Madagascar’s southern region. Lecturers are drawn from international and local environmental nongovernmental organizations such as World Wildlife Fund and Azafoady as well as the Department of Natural Sciences at the University of Antananarivo, the Marine Studies Institute of the University of Tuléar, and Libanona Ecology Center.

Seminar topics typically include:

**Biodiversity and Natural Resources**
Island biogeography; humid and dry forest ecosystems; national, private, and community-based protected areas management; impact of economic development and tourism on the environment; animal behavior and ecology; ethnobotany with an emphasis on medicinal plants; southern marine ecosystems.

**Malagasy Society and Cultural Values**
Education; traditional belief systems and their relationships with the environment; ethnicity and ethnic identity; celebration of razana (ancestors); gender roles in Malagasy society; traditional values and contemporary influences in society.

**Educational Excursions**
The program includes excursions to Ranomafana rainforest; the Spiny Desert; Andasibe, Andringitra, Andohahela, Isalo, and Ankaranana national parks; community-managed reserves at Anja and Ifotaka; Mandena conservation site, a mining biodiversity offset; fishing villages; and the barrier reef of Tuléar. These excursions provide students with direct knowledge of specialized ecological zones, rural conservation and development issues, and the challenges of integrating conservation and sustainable development.

French for Natural Sciences
FREN 2000-3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
The language course focuses on oral proficiency in the context of the natural sciences with a biodiversity and natural resource management concentration. Language teaching is targeted toward the many activities in the thematic and field studies seminars in order to help students work more independently in the field. The objective is to facilitate students’ interactions with a range of professionals in the field working to manage natural resources while promoting development within the local cultural context. In support of these objectives, course content provides additional focus on the fundamentals of spoken and written French to increase student capacity. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in the appropriate level, with additional language practice during homestays and on field visits.

Intensive Language Study: Malagasy
MALA 1000 / 2 credits / 30 hours
The course emphasizes beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Formal instruction is augmented by language practice with homestay families.

Environmental Field Study Seminar
ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Conducted primarily in English, this is a course in social and natural sciences research methods. The focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data to critically understand and evaluate program-related environmental issues. The seminar prepares students for the Independent Study Project and gives attention to field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Field studies may include research design, writing a proposal, interviewing, conducting surveys, and maintaining a field journal.

Program Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits 17
Program Base Fort Dauphin (Tolagnaro)
Language Study French, Malagasy
Homestay Fort Dauphin, 4 weeks
Rural Visit/Homestay Faux Cap Region, 1 week
Other Accommodations Hostels, campsites, or small hotels
Independent Study Project 4 weeks
Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework in environmental studies, ecology, biology, or related fields. Three recent semesters of college-level French or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in French, as assessed by SIT.

Specific ecological field study methods may include habitat surveys, biotic sampling and analysis, fauna and flora identification, biodiversity monitoring, population censusing, and animal behavior.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted primarily in southern Madagascar or other approved locations, as appropriate. Sample topic areas: reforestation; coral reef conservation; medicinal plants in the marketplace; ecotourism; carbon sequestration and financing; land tenure reform and agricultural production; conservation assessments of endangered species; sacred forests; community-based resource management; behavioral ecology of lemurs; sustainable land use techniques.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/MGE.
Panama

Tropical Ecology, Marine Ecosystems, and Biodiversity Conservation

Experience one of the world’s most ecologically diverse countries. Explore the critical environmental and social issues affecting its preservation.

Coursework

Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the University of Panama, the National Secretariat for Science and Technology, and EARTH University in Costa Rica.

Comparative Tropical Ecology
ENVI 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish and English with required readings, relevant educational excursions, and a strong field component. Through a comparative approach, students learn about the characteristics and attributes of distinct yet interdependent tropical ecosystems. Students conduct field exercises in tropical cloud forests, rainforests, lowland dry forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and coastal mangroves.

Human Ecology and Conservation in the Tropics
ENVI 3005 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish and English with required readings, relevant educational excursions, and a strong field component. This course studies the relationships, challenges, and conundrums between human use of natural resources and natural resource conservation efforts. Students examine deforestation, hunting, overfishing, and hydroelectric dam building, as well as movements and initiatives aimed at addressing these activities’ social and environmental consequences. Through lectures from academics, researchers, and community leaders, students learn about the challenges faced by local populations as they seek to conserve their natural resources. Students live with and learn from diverse populations when they engage in rural homestays with subsistence farmers, fisher families, families living in protected areas, and in urban homes.

Course topics typically include:
- Terrestrial Ecosystems
  Community ecology; conservation biology; forest-canopy ecology; mammal ecology; forest dynamics; botany; ecology of insect-plant relationships; bird behavior and ecology.
- Marine Ecology
  Marine ecosystems and biodiversity; ecology and conservation of coral reef communities; mangrove biology and wetland ecology; sea turtle biology and conservation.
- Conservation in the Tropics
  Challenges for internationally protected areas and national parks; poverty and the environment; community forestry; indigenous cultures and conservation; industrial and sustainable agriculture; the harvest and conservation of marine resources.
- Educational Excursions
  The program engages in seven weeks of field study, which includes courses at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Bocas del Toro and Barro Colorado Island; a marine and coastal ecology course in Chiriqui Gulf National Park; a sustainable agriculture excursion at EARTH University in Costa Rica, the foremost sustainable agriculture college in the western hemisphere; a homestay in La Amistad International Park buffer zone; and visits to an organic chocolate farm and an industrial banana plantation.
- Intensive Language Study: Spanish for the Natural Sciences
  SPAN 1000-3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours
  Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in classes according to their language level and receive further language practice in the homestays, through tutoring programs with Panamanian college students, and on field visits.
- Independent Study Project and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy

Program Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits 16
Program Base Panama City
Language Study Spanish
Homestay Panama City, 4 weeks
Rural Visits/Homestays Protected-area community, indigenous community, subsistence agriculture community, rural village in Costa Rica
Other Accommodations Hostels, farmhouses, cabins, or small hotels
Independent Study Project 4 weeks
Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in environmental studies, ecology, biology, or related fields as assessed by SIT. There is no language requirement.

Understand issues involving biodiversity conservation. Emphasis is on research design, ecological research methods, and research ethics. The course provides an introduction to the Independent Study Project and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Depending on student interest, research can be conducted in cloud forest highlands, coral reefs, lowland forests, mangroves, rural villages, indigenous communities, or other sites within Panama. Sample topic areas: community resource management; regeneration of canopy emergents in primary forests; sustainable fisheries; coral reef organisms; mangrove health; sustainable agriculture; agroforestry; ecotourism for resource conservation; ethnobotany.
Tanzania

Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology

Explore the delicate balance between ecological concerns and socioeconomic objectives in the vast wilderness expanses of northern Tanzania.

Coursework

Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology Seminar
ENVI 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the relationships among socioeconomic goals, ecological parameters, and cultural transitions from multiscale/actor perspectives in various Tanzanian landscapes. Lecturers are drawn from institutions including Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, and various nongovernmental organizations.

Seminar topics typically include:
Tanzanian Cultures and Society
Precolonial and colonial history; Tanzania’s socialist experiment; contemporary political and economic issues; discourses of development; cultural anthropology; human and physical geography.

Wildlife and Conservation
Paleoecology and ecological zones of Tanzania; patterns of wildlife abundance and diversity; deforestation, soil erosion, and water catchment issues; management of national parks, reserves, and game-controlled areas; animal behavior and ecology; impact of economic development and tourism on anthropogenic landscapes; conservation education; poaching and hunting; environmental law and policymaking; natural resource management.

Educational Excursions
The program includes excursions to national parks and conservation areas including Serengeti, Tarangire, and Lake Manyara national parks; Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area; Mazumbai Forest Reserve; Ndarakwai Ranch; Loliondo Game Controlled Area; and Enashiva Nature Reserve. All excursions are designed with the objective of changing scales and locations, providing a variety of perspectives through which to explore essential questions.

Intensive Language Study: Swahili
SWAH 1000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Students with no previous knowledge of Swahili are placed in intensive novice classes with opportunities for advancement with further language practice during homestays and field visits. Based on in-country evaluation, students with previous Swahili knowledge who test higher than the course offerings that semester pursue Guided Self-Instruction.

Environmental Field Study Seminar
ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
A course in research methods in both the social and natural sciences. The main focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data to critically understand and evaluate program-related political ecology issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Specific social field study methods include designing research projects, writing a research proposal, interviewing, surveys, participatory rural-appraisal techniques, maintaining a field study journal, and non-statistical analysis of qualitative data. Specific ecological field study methods include micro- and macrohabitat analysis, wildlife population sampling and analysis, fauna and flora identification, animal behavior, Geographic Information Systems, and statistical analysis of data sets.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in Arusha, Mothi, or surrounding areas or, with program approval, in other parts of Tanzania. Sample topics include:
- behavior of Colobus guereza in Sagara Forest; canopy and habitat use in sympatric primate species; modernized farming methods in Mgambo; Kibosho youths’ views on population and the environment; vegetation analysis of elephant damage at Ndarakwai Ranch.

Among Maasaiat Ngare Seri; the boundaries of Tanzania’s national parks.

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2013 semester.

Please visit www.sit.edu/TZE for details.
Tanzania

Zanzibar—Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management

Examine coastal ecology and natural resource management in one of the most remarkable areas of the world: Zanzibar and the islands of the Western Indian Ocean.

Coursework

Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management Seminar
ENVI 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of Dar es Salaam and its affiliate, the Institute of Marine Sciences in Zanzibar.

Seminar topics typically include:

Zanzibari Culture and Society
Precolonial and colonial history; independence, revolution, and the union; contemporary political and economic issues; rural development and appropriate technology; cultural anthropology; human and physical geography; Islam and society; role of women in Islam.

Coastal Resource Management
Coastal zone management; fisheries resources; mangroves; seaweed; environmental law and policymaking; biodiversity; basic oceanography; coastal erosion; conservation strategies; community-based conservation; coral reefs; coastal forests; development and urban pollution; the roles of conservation and environmental education in relation to tourism in Zanzibar.

Coral Reef Conservation
Analysis of marine systems including the ecology and interdependence of corals, sea grass, and mangrove systems of the Indian Ocean; coral identification; examples of symbiosis in coral communities; fish of the Indian Ocean; migration and distribution of animals; threats to coral reefs; the relationship between coral reefs and coastal communities; evaluating the health of coral communities.

Educational Excursions
Educational excursions provide students with the opportunity to examine directly the consequences of ecotourism on coastal forests and ecosystems. The program includes excursions to neighboring Pemba Island and Misali Island Conservation Area; the Tanzanian mainland, including an opportunity to experience terrestrial megafauna at Mikumi National Park; and local field visits including to Chumbe Island Coral Park Ecotourism Project and Reserve, Jozani Forest, the Zanzibar Butterfly Centre, and other areas of ecological and cultural interest.

Environmental Field Study Seminar
ENVI 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
A course in research methods in both the social and natural sciences. The main focus is on learning how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and ecological data in order to critically understand and evaluate program-related environmental issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. Field studies include designing a portfolio research project, interviewing, surveys, and maintaining a field journal. Specific ecological field study methods may include micro- and macrohabitat analysis, fauna and flora identification, biodiversity monitoring, population analysis, and animal behavior.

Independent Study Project
ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in the Zanzibar archipelago or in another approved Tanzanian coastal location. Sample topic areas: turtle conservation on Misali Island; oral histories of a Zanzibari fishing village; a survey of invasive species in Jozani Forest; environmental impact of hotels on Unguja; a survey of coral genera near Chumbe Island; a survey of red colobus monkey migration corridors; ecological impacts of salt farming; environmental education in local schools; urban water use on Pemba; feasibility and impacts of seasonal closure of an octopus fishery; an assessment of community-based ecological monitoring.

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2013 semester. Please visit www.sit.edu/TZZ for details.
Climate Change
The Politics of Food, Water, and Energy

Explore the social impacts of climate change through the political economy of food, water, and energy in some of the world’s most productive and vulnerable landscapes.

Coursework

International Political Economy: 1850 to the Present
ECON 3010 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course analyzes the development and history of modern capitalism on a global scale. Topics of consideration within this context include state formation, war, imperialism, technology, energy, environmental change, economic crisis, and “long waves of accumulation.” There is a particular focus on post-WWII developments, including the rise of Keynesianism globally; the role of socialist economies; the political economy of the Cold War; Third World development; the global crisis of profitability in the 1970s; the resultant economic restructuring; and the turn toward neoliberalism; the collapse of communism; the acceleration of neoliberalism and its deepening crisis; the rise of developing economies such as China; and the possibility of alternative economic models.

Comparative Issues in Food, Water, and Energy
SDIS 3070 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course looks at agriculture and energy, and the attendant resources upon which those sectors depend. Students visit farms, fishing communities, food processors, and food transportation companies, while examining the history and political economy of food production in each country visited. A similar approach is taken in examining the energy sector; fieldwork complements detailed studies of geography and political economy as students encounter the natural sciences, companies, technologies, and regulatory arrangements that constitute “the energy sector.” The course also examines the technologies of emerging alternatives such as solar, wind, and tidal power.

The Science and Policy of Climate Change
ECOL 3010 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course unpacks the basic science of the climate system by examining the state-of-the-art science collated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and through regular engagement with scientists and researchers. Students learn how to read scientific papers and analyze the policy process at local, national, and international levels. They also consider the tangle of acronyms—such as IPCC, UNFCCC, and CDM—that define international policy discourses on climate change. The course looks at smaller scale, regional initiatives such as California’s state-level efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions and its investments in renewable energy; Morocco’s green plan; and Plan 2020.

Fieldwork Ethics and Comparative Research Methods
ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course enables students to understand and benefit from experience-based learning processes. It provides students with skills related to gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information from a range of sources, maximizing the knowledge provided by local contexts. The course intends to assist students in assessing their own cultural assumptions and in understanding people from different cultures. Students are familiarized with the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. The seminar provides a framework for a cumulative project involving data collection and qualitative research undertaken in each of the countries visited.

Program Duration
Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Credits
16

Program Sites
California: San Francisco Bay Area, Central Valley, and the California-Mexico border
Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City, Central Highlands, and Mekong River
Morocco: Based in Rabat with excursions to Casablanca, the Atlas Mountains, and the Sahara
Bolivia: Based in Cochabamba with excursions to La Paz, Lake Titicaca, Potosí, and the salt flats of Salar de Uyuni

Accommodations
Homestays in Morocco and Bolivia. Hotels, guesthouses, and/or dormitories in California and Vietnam

Prerequisites
None, although previous coursework in political science, economics, and/or environmental science is recommended.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/CCC.
Iceland

Renewable Energy, Technology, and Resource Economics

Examine the physical processes of energy utilization as well as the economics and environmental impacts of energy use across diverse regions of Iceland.

This program explores energy technologies and systems in Iceland, a world leader in the use of renewable energy. The program visits relevant sites in all corners of Iceland, including geothermal and hydroelectric power plants; historically, culturally, and geologically significant areas; an eco-village; and sites of unique natural beauty. Students gain firsthand exposure to renewable energy systems and the individuals who design, maintain, and make decisions about such systems.

Students spend extensive time in Ísafjörður, the capital of the remote Westfjords region, and in Reykjavík, Iceland’s capital city. The program helps students develop a mastery of alternative energy technologies; an understanding of the role these technologies play in Iceland’s social, economic, and political contexts; and an understanding of how these lessons apply to the larger world. The program also includes an introduction to the Icelandic language and culture.

PROGRAM DURATION: 7 weeks (mid-June to late July)
PROGRAM BASE: Ísafjörður
HOMESTAY: Ísafjörður, 2 weeks. (Please visit the website for details on other accommodations during the program.)
PREREQUISITES: Previous college-level coursework or other significant preparation in engineering, economics, environmental studies, or related fields.

COURSEWORK
ENGR 3000: Renewable Energy, Technology, and Resource Economics Seminar
3 credits / 45 class hours
ICEL 1000: Introduction to Icelandic
3 credits / 45 class hours
ENGR 3060: Project on Renewable Energy, Technology, and Resource Economics
3 credits / 90 class hours

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/ICE.
COMING SOON!

Jordan: Health and Community Development

Study health policies and practices in Jordan. Examine the health status of the country’s unique population groups including refugees and desert and Bedouin tribes. Explore the links between poverty, health risks, and social development. Learn about the impact and economics of alternative medical treatment in Jordan.

Visit the SIT website for more information.

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