Equatorial Guinea Course Descriptions

Research Methods in Tropical Field Biology (4 credits)

This course provides an experimental approach to the study of biology. After a review of basic topics including scientific method, research design, sampling, data analysis, and the character of scientific literature, students participate in a series of field exercises designed to take advantage of the diverse tropical ecosystems available on Bioko Island. Field research exercises include behavioral data collection, population census techniques, ecological transects, vegetation inventory and description, mapping and GPS, acoustical analysis, and photographic and video recording. Field trips, which may be as long as 3 weeks, have included visits to remote marine turtle nesting beaches, to tropical high altitude shrub vegetation zones, to isolated caldera lakes, and to undisturbed monsoon rain forest areas with frequent sightings of some of Africa’s rarest monkeys.

Texts:


Teaching and Learning in the Community (4 credits; includes service-learning component)

This course gives students an opportunity to tutor other students who are learning English as a foreign language as a way of understanding teaching and learning processes and the processes involved in doing authentic service learning that meets the needs of both local residents and college student participants. This experience of tutoring is at the center of the course. Through the tutoring process, students will learn about: 1) doing a needs assessment of learners, 2) analyzing the similarities and differences of English and the varieties of Spanish spoken in Equatorial Guinea, 3) developing authentic, communicative activities for English language learning, 4) understanding the social, political, economic and cultural context of teaching and learning English in Equatorial Guinea, and 5) evaluating teaching and learning in this context. Through these tutoring experiences in community organizations and other components of the study abroad program, students will also prepare a presentation on this region of Africa to do with school children in the Philadelphia region when they return to the United States. This course also provides multiple opportunities for practicing Spanish in the context of interactions with community members.

Texts:


Conservation Biology (4 credits)

This course examines the current worldwide loss of biodiversity, including its causes (such as human population growth and anthropogenic environmental changes), its characteristics (such as loss of genetic diversity, habitat fragmentation, changing interspecific relationships) and its possible solutions (such as natural ecosystem conservation and restoration). Topics include conservation ethics, taxonomic definitions, global patterns of biodiversity, genetic diversity within species, demographic processes, species interactions, extinctions and invasions, habitat fragmentation, conservation reserves and ecological restoration.

Texts:


Excerpts from the following additional sources have also been used in prior years:


Current articles from scientific journals are posted on the assignments section of “Blackboard” for this course.

Natural Resource Economics (4 credits)

This course explores the field of economics known as natural resource economics. In this course we will examine theories of efficient utilization of natural resources; issues related to inefficient use; when markets perform successfully and when they fail; the role of government to promote efficient use; externalities; discounting; nonrenewable, renewable and recyclable resources; and sustainability. The course relies extensively on graphical analyses to make it accessible to non-Economics major students.

Texts:


See Guest Lecture Series on BlackBoard for Additional Readings.
Elementary Statistics (4 credits)

This course offers an introduction to basic statistical techniques and their applications to the sciences, social sciences, and business administration. Topics covered include collection and presentation of data, measures of central tendency and variability, probability, sampling distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, correlation and regression, and an introduction to analysis of variance.

Texts:

Class CD-Rom

West African History and Culture (4 credits)

This course presents an introduction to some of the leading themes, events and personalities related to modern West African history. The course particularly focuses on the nature of the European/African relationship in the era of slave trade and the colonial takeover of Africa. The course explores how and why European powers were able to take control of the continent and how this impacted Africa and Africans.

Africa in Spanish (4 credits)

This course will aim at providing students with a better understanding of practical Spanish and the particular varieties used in Equatorial Guinea. Both conversational and grammatical Spanish will be taught. Works by Spanish language writers from and about tropical Africa, especially Equatorial Guinea, will be emphasized. The texts will reinforce the importance of vocabulary used on a daily basis and give students a comfortable knowledge of the Spanish language, while exposing students to the culture and literature of the only Spanish speaking country in sub-Sahara Africa. Texts include Las Aves de Bioko, Guinea Ecuatorial: Guia de campo.