

## **Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment—Australia**

An International Education Course

### **Course Information**

*Credits*—6 as OAP 428.01 or 528.01

*Dates*—June 11-July 4, 2011

*Instructors*—

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*Registration deadline*—**March 1, 2011** (class size limited to **20**; register early!)

*Estimated cost*—**\$7,400** (includes tuition and program fees; airfares from home to Los Angeles, Los Angeles to Australia, and within Australia; ground transport, room and board in Australia; meals not covered by the program fee; and moderate discretionary spending)

### **The Course**

...is a 26-day field experience in tropical northeast Queensland, Australia. It is open to all majors, undergraduate and graduate, and there are no prerequisites. Science majors are encouraged to apply. You will study many exiting things, including:

1. Interactions of humans (Aboriginals and Europeans), in the past and present, with their environments and each other.
2. Marine life and ecosystem management issues on the Great Barrier Reef, including two days at sea during which you will snorkel or dive over some of the most spectacular coral reefs in the world.
3. Wet and dry tropical forests, their incredible biodiversity, and human interactions with and impacts on them.
4. The dependence of tropical forests, mangroves and reefs on each other for ecological sustenance and health.
5. Sustainable agricultural, pastoral and tourism businesses in the Outback.
6. The conflict between modern human activities and long-term sustainability of our planetary life support system.
7. Cultural life in several Australian cities and tent camping in the Outback.

### **Learning Objectives**

During this course, you will:

1. Keep a detailed field notebook.
2. Identify important groups of tropical marine and terrestrial organisms.
3. Design, conduct and report on simple research projects as part of a group.
4. Learn how to write concise essays linking course readings and activities to sustainability.
5. Interact with people from other cultures and universities.

## Syllabus

1. **Early March:** Provisional acceptance into the course.
2. **Mid-March:** Group meeting to discuss academic expectations and course logistics.
3. **Late March:** Final acceptance into the program.
4. **Early April:** Pre-departure assignments given.
5. **Early May:** Pre-departure assignments due.
6. **Sat, June 11:** Fly from home to Los Angeles and from Los Angeles to Australia. Arrive at the starting place for the course on Mon, June 13.
7. **Module 1:** *Humans in the Environment*, including Aboriginal history in Australia, Aboriginal and European views of and relationships with the environment and their impacts on the environment, and learning and staying at a backpacker hostel, a sustainably operated farm, and an abandoned gold mine turned into a tourist location.
8. **Module 2:** *Biology, Ecology and Management of the Great Barrier Reef*, including lectures on marine biology and management, snorkeling or diving on the reef, and a tour of Reef HQ—the agency responsible for managing the GBR.
9. **Module 3:** *Tropical Rainforest Biology, Ecology and Management, and How to Live Sustainably*, including lectures on tropical rainforest biology and management, helping to control invasive plants, planting trees to restore forests, and understanding the significance of Australia's tropical forests to the world.
10. **Mon, July 4:** Fly from Australia to Los Angeles and from Los Angeles to home (or from Australia to Fiji if you enroll in the Fiji course).