



## Syllabus

### ENV Studies 391 Ruins to Reefs (Sustainable Ecosystems) /Spring 2018

**Instructors:** Dr. Beth Christensen & Dr. Aaren Freeman &/o Dr. Ruth Coffey

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**Office hours:**

#### Meetings:

The course consists of a series of lectures (8 hours of instruction) before leaving for Belize. Students will have assignments on the ecology and geology of the region. The field component will run for 9 days, including travel; students will have the opportunity to participate in a focused marine ecology course on Glovers Reef instead of returning home. A final meeting (1 hour) is held ~3 weeks after the course ends. *This course is taught in the field and so personal injury is possible. Students must behave responsibly and safely.*

#### Course description:

Students will explore a variety of environments in Belize, from the mountains to the reefs. They will be exposed to Mayan culture, both modern and ancient, and experience a variety of biomes including pine forest, tropical rainforest and the second longest barrier reef in the world.

#### Course learning goals

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- appreciate the different structures and roles of environments of the Central American tropics, including the Belize Barrier Reef and the Pine Forest and sub-tropical Broadleaf Forests.
- identify tropical and marine species and their relationship to tropical environments
- experience both modern Mayan culture at the Mayan Center with environmental pioneer Ernesto Saqui, and ancient by hiking to ancient Mayan temples.
- study unique models of environmental preservation, such as the Belize Zoo.

#### Textbook and other reading materials

- A Natural History of Belize: Inside the Maya Forest (Samuel Bridgewater)
- Tropical Marine Ecology: a Field guide to Belize (Michael Honeth; Mathilde Loubeyres)

## **Attendance**

Participation in the intersession field work in Belize is mandatory and essential to success in the course.

You should come **prepared** for each lecture/seminar. You read assignments before each lecture/seminar and contribute to the class discussion in a way indicating your comprehension of the material.

## **Evaluation and course grading**

20% Pre-course assignments on ecology and geology.

20% Identification of 3 species per day.

30% Questions on activities (ruins, pine forest, broadleaf forest, jaguar preserve, barrier reef)

10% Participation

20% Final paper (due 3 weeks after returning)

Final Paper: Students will write a final paper (10 pages) outlining their thoughts on how best to manage Belize natural systems and archaeological treasures in light of economic pressures. Students should consider increased tourism (cruise industry), sea level rise, impacts of climate change, and internationally - driven development. Students should draw on their experience in Belize.

### **1. Honor Code**

There will be zero tolerance on infractions to the honor code. Students will be referred to the Provost's office and will receive a failing grade for the exam or exercise. Adelphi's Student Honor Code (see student handbook): "...every student is on his or her honor not to cheat, nor to plagiarize, nor to act dishonorably."

### **2. Ferpa**

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a student's grades or academic record cannot be revealed to anyone outside of university officials without written permission of the student.

### **3. Special needs**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to talk to the professor about accommodations they may need to produce an accessible learning environment.

## **Cell phone policy:**

The use of cellphones or other hand-held communication device when students should be engaged in discussion or lecture, is strictly forbidden. Student will receive one warning

## **Turnitin:**

Adelphi University has a license agreement with Turnitin.com, a service that helps prevent plagiarism from Internet resources. I reserve the right to request an electronic copy of any written assignment submitted in this course for review through Turnitin.com. Please see Adelphi's tips

for students on preventing plagiarism and student instructions for Turnitin.com for more information.

### **Pre- Trip**

Day 1: 4 hours of instruction

Day 2: 4 hours of instruction

### **Field Course on site in Belize**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Itinerary</b>	<b>Activity</b>
1	7-Jan	Depart USA	
		Reach San Ignacio	William Hofman taxi
2	8-Jan	visit Ruins	Xunantunich ruins
3	9-Jan	visit caves	ABC cave
4	10-Jan	travel to Zoo or Monkey Bay	Night feeding, hike
5	11-Jan	travel to Maya Center	scarlet macaws, medicinal tour
6	12-Jan	visit Jaguar preserve	jaguar preserve, make chocolate
7	13-Jan	transfer to TC	snorkel mangrove, Calabash Cay
8	14-Jan	TC	snorkel, lecture, free time
9	15-Jan	go home (or to Glovers)	fly Dangriga to Belize City (or boat to Glovers)

### **Post- Trip**

3 weeks after returning: 1 hour of instruction