

Curriculum Example

B.A. in Liberal Studies with Concentration in Environmental Studies

For this example, students participate in the following study abroad opportunities:

1. AEA's Brazilian Ecosystems: The Protection and Management of Biodiversity
2. Direct enrollment program available through one of Antioch University's partner institutions abroad (possibilities include: University of Tübingen in Germany; Fundacion Universidad de las Americas, in Puebla, Mexico; Ryukoku University in Kyoto Japan; the University of Copenhagen in Denmark)

Program Director and Faculty

Dr. Suzanne Kolb, Ph.D. Ecology, University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology.
(Director of Brazilian Ecosystems Program)

Program faculty includes biologists from three Brazilian universities and The National Institute for Research in the Amazon, as well as directors of conservation organizations and park systems.

AUS Faculty

Marcia Tate Arunga (Core Faculty), M.A., Pacific Oaks College.

Nada Elia (Core Faculty), Ph.D., Purdue University.

Mary Lou Finley (Core Faculty), Ph. D., University of Chicago.

Lisa Lynch (Adjunct Faculty), Ph.D., Union Institute & University.

Kenneth O. Turner (Adjunct Faculty), M.Ed., University of Georgia-Athens; B.S., Georgia Tech.

Cynthia Updegrave (Adjunct Faculty), M.S. University of Washington;
B.A., West Chester University.

Courses

Part I: Required Courses Offered on AEA's Brazilian Ecosystems Program

Ecology and Biodiversity of Brazil (4 semester credits)

This course focuses on the value of biodiversity, the causes and patterns of biodiversity loss, the ecological significance of anthropogenic disturbances, and methods of hypothesis testing in the field of conservation biology. Students review the theoretical principles involving these topics during the pre-program orientation lectures and through assigned readings. Throughout the program the class examines species and habitat diversity characteristic of several Brazilian biomes.

Brazilian Natural Resource Management (4 semester credits)

This course introduces the need for sustainable management of resources in terms of the value of ecosystem goods and services. Students will examine the application of sustainable management practices in agriculture, forestry, and park management. The role of environmental policy and the influence of non-governmental organizations in affecting environmental stewardship are also examined. This topic further includes consideration of local cultural attitudes in policy development and implementation.

Portuguese Language(4 semester credits)

This intensive Portuguese language course will use instructional methodologies including conversation, tutorial instruction, and reading of popular literature. Additional exposure to the language will be achieved through listening, conversation, and interaction with homestay families.

Field Internship (4 semester credits)

The final four weeks of the program are devoted to a science internship, working with a faculty supervisor on-site. Internships involve participating in a research team project, assisting in an educational program, or volunteering with an environmental agency project.

Part II: In addition to the courses on the Brazilian Ecosystems Program, in the second semester of study abroad, students will complete additional courses in support of this concentration. Course offerings will depend on where the student chooses to study abroad.

Part III: During residence at Antioch Seattle, students may select courses from the following samples:

Community Organizing in History (3-4 quarter credits)

Community organizing is a practice that involves affected groups and people in grassroots, democratic efforts for social, economic and/or political change aimed at improving the quality of their lives and building stronger communities. Students examine individuals and the accomplishments of their movements, both

past and present, and the various methods and strategies that make community organizing effective today.

Climate Change Activism (3-4 quarter credits)

Grassroots activism is critical in the fight to prevent global warming. Students examine the science of climate change and explore the kinds of changes needed to avert the worse consequences of global warming. Students and faculty explore grassroots efforts to bring about changes in the U.S. and elsewhere. Students work collaboratively to develop climate change action projects, informed by existing theories about social movements and social change.

International Activism (3-4 quarter credits)

Looks at various transnational solidarity movements (e.g. Non-Violent Peace Force, International Solidarity Movement, Greenpeace, Amnesty International) to examine how to put one's privileged position to use to the benefit of others, without exporting and imposing ethnocentric perceptions and values.

Creating a Just, Peaceful and Sustainable Future (3-4 quarter credits)

Explores how local communities, nongovernmental organizations and grassroots groups envision, design and begin to implement changes toward an environmentally sustainable world, greater economic justice, strengthened democracy and peaceful solutions in conflict situations. Students examine new thinking that helps to conceptualize alternatives, as well as anti-racism work and holistic approaches to peace building.

Global Economics and Ideologies (3-4 quarter credits)

Provides an in-depth analysis of how local and global politics, as well as capitalism, combine to determine what titles become available to English readers in the U.S. and how these titles become representative of a foreign culture. Students use reception theory to examine fiction that informs perceptions of gender dynamics in selected parts of the world.

Globalization, Development and Grassroots Movements: Issues in the Global South (3-4)

Globalization and its impact on communities throughout the world, focusing on the countries of the Global South (sometimes referred to as The Third World) as they struggle with issues of development and "maldevelopment," efforts to maintain and improve local standards of living in the face of globalization, and the influence of institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Environmental Studies (3-4)

Students explore the physical, biological and social environment from a variety of perspectives. Special emphasis on the role of science in solving complex environmental issues and governmental policies intended to provide solutions. Students research and analyze a complex environmental issue and present their findings to the class.