BSC 1930 – Biological Issues  
Israel Study Abroad Program

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STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant:
- being a college student with a high school diploma
- being in good academic standing at the time of application (cannot be on academic warning, probation or suspension)
- being enrolled for credit in an approved study abroad program course
- interviewing with program’s lead faculty member
- being approved by the Center for International Programs-paying all deposits and fees according to the fee schedule

Course Description: This course is designed to allow the student an opportunity to investigate current biological issues of importance to society through lecture and discussion. Issues may include, but are not limited to, methods of science, ethical issues in science, biological impact of environmental change, genes and genomes, biodiversity and evolution, populations, ecology and conservation of species and natural habitats, sociobiology, reproductive strategies, and the biological basis of cancer, AIDS and other diseases.

Major Learning Outcomes and Objectives:
1. The student will apply the scientific method in defining, analyzing and solving problems throughout the course and in life situations by:
   a) understanding the terms (including dependent and independent variables) and premises involved in solving problems scientifically.
   b) describing and presenting solutions regarding contemporary issues and problems using scientific methodology.
      a. These issues can include but are not limited to: genetics, fertility and the environment, biodiversity, conservation, medical technology and ethics.
2. The student will identify, discuss and recognize the relevancy to humans and all other living organisms of selected biological issues related to genetics, environmental change, and the biological nature of disease by:
   a) describing and defining the causes of genetic diseases.
   b) describing and explaining the significance of genomic sequencing and the ethical issues surrounding genetic engineering.
c) describing and explaining the biological basis of diseases not related to genetics, and the impacts these diseases have on society.

3. The student will identify and discuss selected biological issues related to organism diversity, ecological relationships, and evolution by:
   a) recognizing natural systems, their components, and interrelationships.
   b) describing the importance and value of natural ecosystems and the impact of organisms, including humans on these systems through destruction or alteration.
   c) describing the importance of temporal changes in organisms and ecosystems.
   d) describing the importance of biological diversity and diverse communities.
   e) explaining the importance of the interaction of human society and the natural environment including, but not limited to economics, social issues, and the establishment of a system of bioethics.

4. The student will analyze, formulate and participate in discussions related to selected biological issues by:
   a) identifying the pertinent arguments concerning the given biological issue.
   b) presenting those arguments in cogent manner during group meetings of the class.

Criteria Performance Standard:
Upon successful completion of the course the student will, with a minimum of 70% accuracy, demonstrate mastery of each of the above stated objectives through classroom measures developed by individual course instructors.

Course Prerequisite or corequisite: Prerequisites: ((ENC 0020 or ENC 0025) and (REA 0002 or REA 0017) and (MAT 0024 or MAT 0028)) or (EAP 1695 and (MAT 0024 or MAT 0028)) or appropriate scores on the SPC Placement Test and consent of the instructor, or Program Director approval.

Assignments and Grading
Field notebook = 25%
Participation = 20%
In-country quizzes = 30%
Final = 25%

Assignments are due or to be taken on the date assigned. No late work will be accepted.

Representative Textbooks
There is no required textbook for this course. All lecture material will be provided to the student through MyCourses or in country. A reliable camera is necessary to document all flora and fauna. A 1-subject composition notebook is also required for note taking.

Attendance
The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum (http://www.spccollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm). The policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define “active participation” in class (and therefore “attendance”), and publish that definition in each syllabus. For this class, in-country attendance is mandatory and will be used to determine active participation in the course. Assignments and/or quizzes will not be permitted to be taken late due to an absence. Tardiness will not be tolerated. We leave for trips and/or dives promptly at varying times and will leave without you; therefore, it will count as an unexcused absence and will result in a zero for day. More than one unexcused or excused absence in-country will result in a
non-participating grade (WF) entered into PeopleSoft. To ensure you know the start time each day, you will be told the night before the time to meet the next morning. For our pre-trip classes, you must be there on time and ready to take notes and participate in discussion. You are allowed to miss one pre-trip lecture due to an excused absence. An excused absence is one that is verifiable with written documentation. You are still responsible for all material covered during class. If you have more than one absence for the pre-trip lectures that are either excused or unexcused, you will be in violation of the attendance policy and a non-participating grade (WF) will be entered into PeopleSoft.

**Classroom environment and behavior**

1. The college has an official policy on academic honesty and proper classroom behavior. If there are any questions, please refer to the brochure, "Academic Honesty and Student Behavior: Expectations of Students at SPC" (also available online). I take this subject very seriously and will not tolerate academic dishonesty or inappropriate/disruptive behavior in the classroom. College policy states that a first offense (cheating, plagiarism, etc) is given a “zero” for the assignment with no possibility of replacing the score. In addition, on the first offense, a form is filed in the Assistant Provost’s office. This does not go onto the student’s transcript, but should a second offense occur, the student is then subject to expulsion from school. **You need to be very clear about this procedure and about what constitutes cheating and/or plagiarism.**

2. All electronic devices (cellular phones, laptops, blackberrys, iPods, etc.) are to be turned off before the class starts. Use of these devices during all scheduled class activities is in violation of College Policy and subject to disciplinary action. During unscheduled classroom activities or in the vans, you are allowed to use your devices.

3. Be on time. If you are late, we **will** leave without you and it will count as an **unexcused absence**. You will receive a zero for that day. Please review the attendance policy as to not violate it.

4. Make sure you have your notebook with you for every trip and you are actively taking copious amounts of notes. Violation of this rule will result in a zero for your daily notebook check and points deducted from participation. Using any type of electronic device as a notebook isn’t allowed.

5. This is a field course where every day you will be outside. The weather will be hot, buggy, and wet. You will be on your feet all day and you need to be in good, physical condition to be able to participate in the activities. We walk for many hours sometimes over rough terrain and kayak for many hours. You are also required to be open water scuba certified before going on the trip with your last dive within the last 6 months. Be aware and agree to these conditions if you wish to participate in this course.

6. Field clothes are expected to be worn on all classroom relocations. This includes proper shoes (either closed-toed, fins, or sandals depending upon activity), sunscreen, hats, appropriate swimwear and bug spray (if needed). Points will be deducted for each activity that a student is not prepared.

7. All participants must stay hydrated. You are required to bring a refillable water bottle with you (BPA free) that can be filled while in country.

8. Since this is an environmental awareness course, please be mindful of your impact on the ecosystem. Put trash in its proper place and recycle when you can!!!! Points will be deducted if littering of trash or cigarette butts occurs.
9. You are representing SPC on every classroom relocation. You must be on your best behavior which includes language used (profanity), not talking while I, another student, or our guide is talking, respecting each other and everyone we come into contact with, wearing appropriate clothing and swimwear, staying with the group at all times, and abstaining from possession and/or consumption of any type of intoxicants between event departure and return times, and removing yourself from the company of anyone indulging in intoxicants. Violations will result in the following disciplinary action (but not limited to): receiving a zero in the course, returning immediately from Israel at your own expense, and reimbursement to the college of funds expended on your behalf. (In addition, you will be reported to your site Associate Provost for further disciplinary action.)

10. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas and not during scheduled classroom activities.

**Course Schedule**
Pre-trip class meetings:
Dates:  Friday, April 5th, 12th, 26th, and May 3rd
Times:  9 AM – 3 PM
Travel dates: May 13 – May 28, 2019
Please see itinerary for in-country schedule

**Special Accommodations**
If you anticipate requesting of the Learning Specialist an accommodation for a documented disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC).

The "Addendum to Syllabi" is an important part of your syllabus and can be accessed by using the following link. Please take the time to read this addendum -- [http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm](http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm)

The instructor reserves the right to make changes where necessary to the schedule and assignments. Changes will be announced in class and/or MyCourses. (Students need to check MyCourses regularly for course information and are responsible to note any changes.)

**Packing List**
- Snorkel gear – mask, fins, and snorkel
- Wet suit, skin suit or rash guard
- Scuba equipment if you want to take it
- Waterproof watch (not water resistant) or a dive computer
- Bathing suit
- Beach towel
- Closed-toed shoes
- Sandals
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Shirts
- Shorts
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries
• Hat/visor if you want one
• Undergarments
• Socks
• Field notebook
• Camera w/ charger
• Pencil/Pen
• Laptop if you would like to take it w/ charger
• Water bottle
• Money lunch and souvenirs
• Cell phone charger
• Passport
• Dive Insurance card
• Dive certification card