

STUDY ABROAD SYLLABUS BSC 3931

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ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:

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COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER: BSC 3931 Special Topics Contact hours: 47. 3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an open format course designed to address the needs and interests of the students as well as provide an opportunity to focus on current biological science topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester but will be limited to a lecture or seminar series format. This course may not be repeated for credit towards major requirements.

STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant:

- Being 18 years old or older, or duly admitted and registered as a dual enrolled high school student.*
- 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.
- Obtaining all immunizations required by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In addition, participants are strongly encouraged to get all immunizations and preventative treatments recommended for the particular country and regions through which they will be traveling.

* Participation as a dual enrolled student is subject to approval of this application and an interview conducted by the program's lead faculty member or designee, as well as any stated prerequisites or additional eligibility requirements.

MEETING INFORMATION/ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum (<http://www.spcollege.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.

Course Schedule

Pre-trip class meetings:

Dates: Friday, May 5th, 19th, 26th, June 2th, June 9th

Times: 9 AM – 3 PM

Travel dates: June 10 – June 25, 2023

Please see itinerary for in-country schedule

The program plan for this class (class meetings and activities, etc.) meets or exceeds the requirement of 47 contact hours for the course.

COURSE CONTENT:

The following are topics that will be discussed during this course before and during the trip.

- Coral reef and sea ecology
- Desert ecology
- Freshwater and river ecology
- Wetland ecology
- Sampling techniques and data collection
- Cave ecology
- Desalination
- Conditions necessary for life

- Organismal biology: local flora and fauna found in Israel
- Conservation of many of the topics above

Major Learning Outcomes and Objectives

1. All learning outcomes may vary from course to course
2. The student will develop an understanding of the special topic area field within the biological sciences by:
 - a. explaining past and current advancements in the special topic area.
 - b. identifying the relationship between the special topic area and the core principles learned in the biological science curriculum.
3. The student will demonstrate the ability to read, understand and communicate current advancements in the special topic area selected by:
 - a. analyzing, summarizing and critiquing peer-reviewed scientific literature relevant to advances in the special topic area.
 - b. presenting current data in an oral and or written communication format.
 - c. actively participating in weekly discussions focused on the special topic area.

PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITE:

Prerequisite: BSC 2011 and BSC 2011L.

Corequisite: BSC 3931L. Please note that students who withdraw from lecture or lab will be withdrawn from the appropriate corequisite course (BSC 3931L).

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Pre-trip exam = 30%

Quizzes during the trip = 20%

Presentation over a peer-reviewed paper = 30%

Participation = 20%

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

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>. There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly, the ideas are someone else's, so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule 6Hx23-4.461, Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

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.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Attend every lecture and take notes and ask questions during lecture
- Take pictures of all flora and fauna in country
- Bring your notebook to every outing in country and take lots of notes
- Study together in a group to ensure your notes are complete and you understand the material

ITEMS TO PACK:

- Snorkel gear – mask, fins, and snorkel
- Wet suit, skin suit or rash guard
- Scuba equipment if you want to take it and are diving
- Waterproof watch (not water resistant) or a dive computer (again, if diving)
- Bathing suit
- Beach towel
- Closed-toed shoes
- Sandals
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Shirts – ensure you have some sleeved shirts for holy sites
- Shorts/skirts – ensure you have shorts/skirts that go to or below the knee for holy sites
- Large scarf or pashmina for visiting holy sites
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries
- Hat/visor (especially males for visiting holy sites)
- Undergarments
- Socks
- Field notebook
- Camera w/ charger
- Pencil/Pen
- Laptop if you would like to take it w/ charger
- Large reusable Water bottle
- Money: lunch and souvenirs
- Cell phone charger
- Passport
- Dive Insurance card – if diving.
- Dive certification card – if diving.

STUDENT CONDUCT / ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY:

Please refer to important information about student conduct and related policies in your study abroad application package.

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, sweaty, 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 in the **desert heat**. If you are open water scuba certified before going on the trip, your last dive needs to be within the **last 6 months** before the trip. 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.

EMERGENCIES/HEALTH & SAFETY:

Please refer to important information in pre-departure orientation materials.

LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISORY FOR STUDY ABROAD DESTINATION(S):

<https://il.usembassy.gov/>

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).

Requirement 1f

Description of cultural immersion activities and additional excursions

Please see attached itinerary

Requirement 1g

Suggested safety precautions and arrangements.

The lead faculty member on the trip will carry emergency safety supplies appropriate for the environment and first aid care.

In addition, specifics regarding safety in an unfamiliar environment are covered in participant orientation, including the Study Abroad Emergency Checklist. This checklist covers knowing where to go in emergencies (how to get there, transportation options), emergency contact information (home and local) and contact numbers (local 911 equivalent, embassy, police, hospital, etc.), back-up plans, special conditions, emergency kits, and cash reserves and alternatives. Closer to the time of travel, current safety

conditions can be obtained from the State Department via the Internet. All participants are required to carry international health insurance that covers \$100,000 accident/sickness coverage, including evacuation and repatriation of remains that will be included in your trip fees.