

Field Course in Brazil!

BIO 319 / ENSC 319

Field Course in Marine, Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecosystems Spring I, II 2017

Offered by the Faculty of Science, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

This field course is an exciting class for Biology and Environmental Science majors and non-majors alike. Any CUE student with an interest in adventure is sure to gain valuable experiences from this field expedition course. This unconventional course takes its students on a field research trip during the designated spring/summer semester to various international locations. For the year of 2017, we are going to Brazil.

This is a great opportunity to travel to a part of the world that you may have only dreamed of. You will learn about the plants, animals, and marine life! You will also see and investigate the environmental issues in the destination sites, which may include status and trends of natural resources, environment, and biodiversity. This course is ideal for any student with a desire to obtain global perspective of environmental issues before graduation.

If you're ready for an adventure or just want to find out more please contact:

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May 2017 Destination: Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Course Partner Institution: Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Brazil
(www.pucrs.br)

1. Travel and Field Dates: May 5 – May 19 (note that some preliminary information sessions will be held in advance of departure, and that reports will be given following the return to Edmonton).
 - Group flight booking will be done through a travel agency
 - Departure May 5, 2015 from Edmonton International Airport
 - Return May 19, 2015 at Edmonton International Airport
2. Course Sites: the field portion of the course will be based at the following sites:
 - PUCRS campus, Porto Alegre, Brazil (<http://www.pucrs.br/>)
 - PUCRS Pro-Mata field facilities (<http://www3.pucrs.br/portal/page/portal/ima/Home/promata>)
 - FURG (Fundacao Universitaria Rio Grande) (<http://www.furg.br/>)

3. Pre-departure: Information on the site, outlines of some lectures, and links to biological information about the sites will be provided via Moodle. There will also be a list of project/presentation topics for students to consider, but selection will be made on-site. Each student is expected to be familiar with the general ecology of Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul, as well as the history and culture of the region. Knowledge of Portuguese is not required.

One group information meeting will be held prior to departure to review course policies and procedures.

4. In the field:

- Week 1 includes a visit to PUCRS Porto Alegre campus for two days, followed by field studies at Pro-Mata field facility for five days.
- Week 2 includes a visit to FURG in Rio Grande and exploration of freshwater and marine ecosystems.

5. Post-field period: Each student will submit a written report on their topic of concentration within two weeks of their return to Edmonton.

Registration, fees, and other information:

- All tuition and other fees are required as outlined in the 2016-17 Concordia Academic Calendar (<http://acalendar.concordia.ab.ca/>), Section 5.
- Other fees specific to BIO/ENSC 319. For May 2017, this additional fee is approximately \$2750, to be paid in installments as noted below. Note that these fees are non-refundable unless the courses are cancelled by Concordia, as noted below. The minimum enrolment is 4 students and total enrolment is capped at 10 students. The courses will be cancelled by Concordia if enrolment has not reached 4 by 4:00 pm, 17 January 2017. Other reasons for cancellation at a later date include Brazil weather, health and safety conditions.
- CUE is eligible for applying for government grants (CAGFIL) administered by the ministry for Enterprise and Advanced Education (AEAE). If we receive the government grant, your fee will be reduced accordingly (approximately \$800 per person).
- Fee schedule:
 - i. \$750 - due by 4:00 pm 31 October 2016 (refundable if student cancels registration or if course is cancelled);
 - ii. \$1000 - due by 4:00 pm 17 January 2017 (refundable only if course is cancelled);
 - iii. Remaining (approximately) \$1000 due by 4:00 pm 3 March 2015.
- This \$2750 (or \$2000 if we receive the government grant) covers the following (costs in Canadian funds, conversion from US dollar may change slightly depending on the date of fund conversion):
 - a. All return travel costs based on departure from the Edmonton International Airport

- b. On-site accommodation (shared rooms), at the PUCRS Pro-Matta field facility or in a local hotel, meals on-site
 - c. On-site course instructors and guides
 - d. Medical-only insurance (out-of-country insurance and trip cancellation insurance must be acquired by the student)
 - e. Internal transfer (travel)
- The fee does not cover any personal expenses (such as snacks and souvenirs), vaccinations, trip cancellation insurance, passports, off-site meals, out-of-country medical insurance, or any change in return travel plans made by the student, for whatever reason.

Note:

- Each student must purchase out-of-country emergency medical insurance to augment their student coverage (some credit cards may offer certain coverage, check with your credit card provider).
- Each student must purchase trip cancellation insurance. The cost for each individual student will be determined in consultation with the travel provider, and payment, once determined, should be made to Concordia. Concordia will forward payment to the travel provider.
- Missing a payment deadline will result in cancellation of your registration in the course.
- If the courses fill, a waiting list will be maintained.

Risks and cautions:

Everything possible will be done to minimize risk involved with this course, but there can be no absolute guarantee. The following links, along with the other material provided with the syllabus, will help you with information needed to plan for the course:

- For information on risk in Brazil, please visit the Canadian government travel information web site at <http://travel.gc.ca/news-warnings> . Specific information about Brazil is at <http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/Brazil>. Porto Alegre is in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande Do Sul.
- For information on vaccinations or other preventative medications (such as for malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya fever, Chagas disease, Hepatitis A, and traveler's diarrhea), see <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/brazil>
- Brazil is one of the countries with reported locally acquired Zika virus infection. Most cases of local infection have been found in the tropical northern Brazil where the vector of the virus *Aedes aegypti* is most abundant. The State of Rio Grande do Sul, located at the southernmost corner of Brazil with a cooler climate than the rest part of the country, has only a small number of cases confirmed. The month of May, a relatively drier and cooler month in the area, is a low season of mosquito activity. Nevertheless, precautionary principle is best to be followed. The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends that pregnant women and those planning a pregnancy in the next 2-3 months avoid travel to countries with ongoing Zika virus outbreaks. For additional recommendations please see information on the websites: Government of Canada - Travel health notices (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice/152>).