

Sustainability in the Caribbean

This Maymester experience introduces students to sustainability concepts through practical, hands-on experience in various field techniques,



methods, and assessment with an international perspective usable in any locale. **The course's intense, field-based format** focuses on students working alongside local researchers, keeping field journals, and formulating a final project to present in class upon return. This course builds on Island-needed projects, as determined by Grenadian officials, each year. Grenada is a friendly, English-speaking country with vast opportunities: from beautiful white and black sand beaches to tropical rainforests and mountain waterfalls! Come along and see why we call it "The Spice Isle".



Grenada, West Indies

Dates

May 19-June 5, 2009

Course Number & Credits

GEOG/ENVS 4995/5995, 6 credits

Cost: \$1950 (based on 10 students) and will include: tuition and fees, housing, activity fees, ISIC card, and health insurance.

Cost Does Not Include: Airfare, travel insurance (trip cancellation), food, personal miscellaneous items, passport, and exit fees (currently US\$30).

Application deadline

March 6, 2009. Rolling admissions. Limited space available. Late fee of \$50 applies after March 6, 2009.

Prerequisites

2.7 minimum GPA and a personal interview with Dr. Allen. GEOG 1202 is strongly suggested.

Contact the faculty

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Syllabi, applications, and additional information

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Maymester Sustainability In The Caribbean West Indies

Summer 2009 Program
May 19 - June 5, 2009



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University of Colorado Denver



Summer 2009: West Indies

Course Outline

Owing to its heavy field-based curriculum, formal class will only be held at the pre-departure orientation (19-21 May, 10am-4pm) and upon return (4-5 June, 10am-4pm). Both are required. While on-island students will be “in the field” for most of each day, though occasional lectures will be held in the evenings. “Down time” will be built into the schedule to allow for retention of information/concepts learned and so participants can be refreshed and ready for the next day’s fieldwork and work on their project.

Possible Projects

- Creating a base map for future governmental use in hazards preparation & mitigation, agricultural zoning, biodiversity, and tourism
- Environmental and economic impact assessments of island hazards
- Assessing the island’s water quality
- Documenting the economic and environmental impact of recent cruise-line terminal development and expansion
- Studying the historical geography of *Operation Urgent Fury*—the U.S.’s intervention in Grenada during the early 1980s

Course Description

Representative of the West Indies in general, the tri-island nation of Grenada represents a unique learning environment for studying sustainability. This course introduces students to concepts of sustainability distinct to lesser developed countries (LDCs) while offering practical, hands-on experience with devising and implementing pos-



sible solutions to locally-needed research questions and agendas. This may include, among other things, conducting biological transects, performing geographical analyses, constructing surveys, assessing anthropogenic trail impact, and measuring tourist impact on cultural & natural resources—all in an international arena. Course projects are approved in advance by the instructor, and may be part of ongoing studies or studies already in progress. The project is presented to the class upon return.

Objectives

Five main objectives guide this experience:

- Gaining international experience with hands-on, field techniques & methods
- Understanding sustainability issues on a world-scale
- Being able to compare and contrast sustainability issues in lesser-developed countries (LDCs) and more-developed countries (MDCs)
- Recognizing the role of cultural impact (past and present) on sustainability
- Assessing current crises facing LDCs and proffering feasible solutions

Instructional Methods

This is an intense, field-based course. Pre-departure sessions will include interactive lectures and hands-on practice with various field techniques. Guest presenters will also be included as part of the pre-departure sessions to help students gain a perspective of sustainability initiatives and the West Indian environment and culture. This course assesses issues pertinent to the Island. Therefore, *on Island* instruction will occur via the instructor, specialists, governmental officials, and research professionals throughout the day and during evening debriefing sessions. These may occur in the field, classroom, or take the form of workshops, depending on the presenter and their view of important-to-the-class issues.