



Shepherd University Course Syllabus Summer 2020

Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainability in Peru

ENVS 399B; CRN: XXX (4 credits)

"As a member of the Shepherd University community of scholars, I will uphold the fundamental values of Academic Integrity - Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility."

*"I believe we have a profound fundamental need for areas of the earth where we stand without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment."
Howard Zahniser. Former council member, The Wilderness Society and principal author of the Wilderness Act*

Course Format: Lecture and Field Trip

Meeting Time and Place: TBD

Instructor: Dr. Cecilia Melton, cmelton@shepherd.edu, Byrd Science Center 113

Office Hours: By appointment

Textbook: *No textbook required for purchase, readings will be assigned via the Sakai website.*

Prerequisites: None

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: An environmentally focused study abroad course, concentrating on the varied aspects of biodiversity and conservation concerns. Societal impact on ecosystem structure will be considered through lecture discussions and during the field experience, which will take place in Peru. Students will explore two distinct ecosystems in Peru, the Pacific subtropical desert and the Amazon rainforest. Students will also be exposed to other aspects of sustainability in Peru, including social and cultural issues, through visit to non-profit organizations and service learning experiences.

II. LEAP GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. LEAP GOALS. Shepherd University has adopted goals from the American Association of Universities and Colleges (AAC&U) Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative (<http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm>) with minor modifications. This course utilizes Goal No. 1: *Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World* and Goal No. 3: *Personal and Social Responsibility (Intercultural knowledge and competence)*.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES: Shepherd University has adopted learning outcomes that pertain to each LEAP Goal. The following are the main Learning Outcomes I expect students to achieve in this course. At the end of the semester students should:

- Understand the basic concepts underlying conservation ecology.



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- Be able to explain major actions required to conserve biodiversity.
- Basic understanding of the ecology of the Pacific subtropical desert and the biodiversity threats in the area.
- Basic understanding of the Amazon forest ecology and the biodiversity threats in the area, specifically in the Peruvian Amazon.
- Basic understanding of cultural and social issues in Peru.
- Understanding of sustainability efforts in the areas visited during the field experience section of the class.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to attend lectures sessions and a field trip to Peru as part of this course.

1. LECTURES, QUIZZES and ASSIGNMENTS

This section of the course includes lectures, reading assignments and discussions, paper summaries, and quizzes. It is important to keep up with any readings as they provide a backdrop for class discussions and lectures. Articles on specific topics may be passed out in class or be placed on Sakai.

During lecture, basic biodiversity and conservation concepts will be introduced, including Peruvian ecosystems and their conservation issues and efforts. Lecture discussions will include orientation and preparations for the trip to Peru.

2. FIELD TRIP ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are required to attend all the lectures, field visits and activities in Peru. Students will be graded based on attendance, participation, and engagement in all the planned activities, as well as in the debriefing meetings.

3. TRAVEL JOURNAL

Students will be responsible for keeping a daily journal of the trip, written in a composition book. Students will be required to write at least one page per day, the journal should be as reflective as possible.

4. ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential for success in this class, and failure to do so may result in financial aid being revoked either partially or in full. Please refer to www.shepherd.edu/faoweb/ and click on the large red “Attendance” button for more details.

It is the responsibility of each student to attend the lectures and complete all the assignments and quizzes due prior to departure date to the field trip section of this course.



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IV. GRADING PROCEDURES

- Lectures, quizzes and assignments 30%
- Field trip attendance and participation 40%
- Journal 30%

Final grades for the course will be determined as follows: A=100-90%; B= 89-80%; C=79-70%; D=69-60%; F=59-0%.

V. COURSE POLICIES:

The following policies have been instituted to foster a healthy and productive learning environment and to insure fairness in evaluating student's work.

- Resources including lecture materials, reading assignments and syllabus will be available on Sakai. The lecture materials are available for students enrolled in the class and are not to be distributed.
- **CONDUCT:** An atmosphere of mutual respect is expected at all times. Students must be able to interact well with others and have an open mind towards learning and experiencing other cultures.
 - Students are expected to present themselves in the community as **professionals**.
 - Please extend all **respect and appreciation** to the guest lecturers, field specialists and field guides.
 - **Verbal or physical abuse of any nature will not be tolerated.** Violation of this policy will be handled according to University policies. Students will be bound to the Shepherd University Student Code of Conduct while studying abroad. Please refer to the website for further information <https://www.shepherd.edu/conduct/student-code-of-conduct>
 - No drugs or excessive drinking will be allowed.

PROGRAM COSTS

\$3,264 to \$3,618 (Price will be determined after securing flight costs, also depending on the number of students enrolled/participating).

Degree seeking students at Shepherd University are not required to enroll in ENVS 399B in order to participate in the trip. However, enrollment and tuition payment are required to receive academic credit.

What's included?

- Transportation: flights, airport shuttles and boat trips
- Hotels
- Lima: Breakfast and some meals



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- Inkaterra: all meals
- Tours, guest speakers and service learning

Not included:

- Passport
- Tuition
- Some meals
- Personal expenses

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook** (<http://www.shepherd.edu/student-handbook>).

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: The Office of Disability Support Services at Shepherd University believes that, "the first step to success is access." Disability Support Services is committed to working closely with individuals with exceptionalities to meet their academic and housing needs. Students requesting any disability related accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 304-876-5122. This includes, but is not limited to students with visual or hearing impairments, students with diagnosed disabilities that affect their learning and in need of academic accommodations, and students requesting specific housing accommodations for health-related reasons. Students must be registered with the Office of Disability Support Services and present their certified accommodation letter to each of their instructors as early in the semester as possible prior to using any granted academic accommodation. For more information, please visit <http://www.shepherd.edu/disability>.

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE REPORTING: Under Title IX of the U.S. Department of Education, instructors are mandated to report any incidence of interpersonal violence they become aware, whether details are shared by the victim directly or by a third party such as a roommate or a friend of the victim. This is to ensure that victims of interpersonal violence get the help and support they need. In addition, there are channels available to victims of interpersonal violence on campus that allow them to seek help but maintain confidentiality. Contact Rhonda Jackson, the campus interpersonal violence coordinator at 304-876-5681 or rjackson@shepherd.edu for details.

NOTE: Any clarifications given (whether oral or written) regarding course policy are as much a part of official course policy as is this document.



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TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND ITINERARY

Week (date)	Activity
1 May 4-8	Lectures
2 May 11-15	Lectures
May 16	Flight to Peru
May 17	Visit Lima
May 18	Pantanos de Villa Tour Service learning
May 19	Visit Mama Quilla in Huaycán
May 20	Guest Lecture Service learning
May 21	Flight to Puerto Maldonado Boat trip and check in at Inkaterra Forest tour River night watch
May 22	Visit Ita Model Farm Inkaterra canopy walkway
May 23	Visit river island Visit Bio-orchard and Palmetum Rainforest by night
May 24	Boat trip to Puerto Maldonado and flight back to Lima
May 25	Guest lecture Guided visit to the Museum of Natural History
May 26	Flight back to Washington DC

The dates of lectures will be determined closer to the semester and they might be concentrated in one week only.