

# **Environment & Natural Resources 5790.06**

## **Spring 2017**

### **Iceland Study Abroad Seminar: Environment and Culture of Iceland**

#### **Course Instructors:**

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#### **Location and Time:**

5:30 – 6:20 PM Thursdays 245 Kottman Hall

#### **Course Goals and Objectives:**

This 1 credit-hour course serves as pre-departure preparation for the SENR Study Abroad trip to Iceland, Summer 2017. Students participating in the Iceland program will also register for the companion course, ENR 5797.06 (3 credit hours, Summer Session).

Students who take this course will: 1) be introduced to the natural and cultural history of Iceland through presentations, critical analysis, reading, discussion, writing, and a team project; 2) be well-prepared to avail learning opportunities during the study abroad program in Iceland; 3) be provided the required information to prepare for travel to and in Iceland.

These objectives will be met through: 1) weekly presentations, films, readings and critical discussions; 2) a research project on an environmental or cultural topic, including oral presentation, and a final written summary; 3) assigned readings; 4) a paper reviewing a contemporary issue relevant to the natural and human environment in Iceland.

#### **Course Description:**

The purpose of ENR 5790.06 is to prepare students for a short-term study abroad experience in Iceland (Summer 2017), and provides a general introduction to the country, so that learning opportunities in-country will be maximized. Most of the in-country experience will involve field excursions, and the goal of the pre-departure course is to provide a perspective on Iceland's geography, environment and history in advance. The course will focus on and integrate natural and cultural history of Iceland.

From the natural history perspective, natural resources, agriculture, land use and land degradation, aquatic and terrestrial resource industries, energy sources, climate change and environmental issues will be explored. Human culture and historical heritage of the country including language, literature, politics and society will be discussed.

**Prerequisites:**

The course is provided for students who have been accepted to and who have committed to participate in the SENR Study Abroad Program in Iceland.

**Course Format:**

The class will meet for one one-hour session each week for the Spring semester. The course will be delivered in a seminar format including: presentations by faculty, students and OIA staff, discussions, demonstrations, films, and audio-visual presentations. Students should be prepared to discuss all assigned readings, assignments and other class projects. This will facilitate a successful contribution to the active learning nature of the class in-country.

**Assignments:****Contemporary Events Essay (20%)**

A three-page essay on a contemporary social or political topic of your choice, approved by the instructors, will be due by the end of the semester.

**Article Reviews (20%)**

Students will periodically be assigned articles to read and critique about various Icelandic topics. Two specific articles will be assigned for a written assignment. Each essay should be a minimum of two pages, typed and double-spaced. Proper composition and grammar will be expected and affect the overall grade.

**Research Project (50%)**

Students will be assigned to a group of three, and will select a research topic during the second meeting of class. Emphasis will be placed on environmental topics. Students will prepare a poster on their topic, present their findings and provide a written abstract, in the final week of the semester.

**Attendance and Participation (10%)**

Attendance is expected at each class session. Therefore, students are responsible for knowing any changes to the syllabus, for all information presented and discussed in class, for announcements made in class, for materials distributed in class, and for classroom exercises and assignments. Emergency absences will be dealt with on an individual case basis.

***Because of the nature of short-term study abroad programs, more than one absence will jeopardize your eligibility to participate in the summer study abroad trip!***

**Carmen:**

This class will be administrated using **Carmen**; on the class website you will find the course syllabus, reading list, links to homework assignments, announcements, and grading points. To gain access to the **Carmen** website, go to <https://carmen.osu.edu>, sign in with your OSU email ID and your password, and navigate to the ENR 5790.06 website, or visit the Carmen help site: <http://elearning.osu.edu/carmen%2Dhelp/students/index.htm>.

**Grading:**

Research Project	50%
Current/Social Events Essay	20%
Article Reviews	20%
Participation/Attendance	10%

**Grading Scale:**

94-100	A	77-79	C+
90-93	A-	74-76	C
87-89	B+	70-73	C-
84-86	B	67-69	D+
80-83	B-	60-66	D

**Class Sessions:**

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Living on the Edge of Civilization: Climate & Geography of Iceland
Week 3	Geology I: Tectonics and Volcanism
Week 4	Geology II: Glaciers and climate change
Week 5	Traveling to Iceland - preparation
Week 6	Vegetation, agriculture, and land use change in Iceland
Week 7	Land and Soils: Degradation and Restoration
Week 8	The Green Revolution: Sustainable Energy Uses and Controversies
Week 9	Icelandic History and Literature
Week 10	Silver of the Seas: Fisheries
Week 11	Surviving in the Sub-Arctic: How people influenced the country
Week 12	Icelandic Folklore and Language
Week 13	Icelandic politics and contemporary culture
Week 14	Presentation Session Preparing to travel abroad Course Wrap-up

**Academic Integrity:**

The university states that it is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: <http://studentconduct.osu.edu/page.asp?id=1>

It is our intent to treat each of you as if you are honest. We assume that whatever you say or do is done in good faith. If we suspect that you have breached that trust, our intention is to report any suspected academic misconduct through appropriate channels to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. The Ohio State University Student Handbook covers the subject should you not understand what academic misconduct is. Of course, we will be happy to discuss the topic with you on a no fault basis if we are consulted before the fact. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct at the link listed in the previous paragraph.

**Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.