AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION

PT. 1: INTRODUCTION
The Education Abroad Network, in conjunction with the University of New South Wales, presents a practical and theoretical introduction to 'Australian Environment, Wildlife, and Conservation'. From its rainforests, coastlines and coral reefs to its arid interior, Australia offers a diverse range of natural and cultural landscapes and ecosystems to explore. Evolving from origins in ancient Gondwana and millions of years of geographic isolation, Australia boasts geographical and natural features found nowhere else in the world.

This program offers an unparalleled opportunity for students to receive a first-hand introduction to Australia’s environment and wildlife through the eyes of local experts. This course is contextualized within the global ecological crisis and considers the development of environmental values and awareness and describes environmental controversies and how they are addressed. In consideration of these issues, Australia’s unique flora and fauna are examined and the various climatically varied regions visited are highlighted throughout the course.

The program outlines and exposes students to the challenges in managing natural and cultural heritage in the 21st century. Aboriginal perspectives of the Australian landscape and their cultural ties to the environment are explored, along with how these considerations are incorporated into management of natural parks.

This course is an introductory level science course, which is also relevant for broader environmental and cultural studies programs. It assumes no, or very little previous tertiary-level biological science, however, biology students would have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, particularly in practical application of biological science, and in environmental management. Care has been taken to secure experienced guides and speakers for the delivery of this course to ensure a first-class educational and cultural experience.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course provides a range of learning experiences designed to:

1. Experience diverse landscape types existing in Australia, including:
   - Wet/Dry tropics: Kakadu National Park (World Heritage Area); Northern Territory
   - Coastal temperate: Blue Mountains National Park (World Heritage Area); Sydney Harbour National Park, NSW
   - Tropical rainforest: Daintree National Park (Wet Tropics World Heritage Area); Far North Queensland

2. Understand how geological change in Australia, along with human culture, has influenced the evolution of Australia’s unique biodiversity.

3. Develop an appreciation of Aboriginal cultural links to the Australian landscape and frameworks for Aboriginal involvement in protected area management.

4. Present Australian biodiversity conservation as a case study within the context of the global ecological crisis and introduce some of the unique flora and fauna and the threats to their existence through direct experience.

5. Introduce natural and cultural heritage conservation management principles, practices, legislation and issues.

6. Introduce students to wildlife survey methods used in conservation.

ASSESSMENT

Field notebook 15%
Field Experiment 15%
Research Report (electronic submission) 30%
Final exam (Cairns) 30%
Participation 10%
(These assessments are subject to change)

As this is a course of the University of New South Wales, assessments will be marked in accordance with the Australian marking scheme:

Fail <50%
Pass 50–64%
Credit 65–74%
Distinction 75–84%
High Distinction >85%

An international grade equivalence sheet will accompany the official UNSW transcript when mailed to the student’s home institution following completion of the program.
A handbook of notes will be provided.

**Australian Environment, Wildlife and Conservation** is one of three TEAN Summer Down Under courses transcripted by UNSW in 2015. Each program has approximately 20–30 participants and all travel a similar itinerary within Australia. Generally, all groups will be staying at the same destination at approximately the same time; however, programs will break up into their individual groups for classes and field excursions.

**LOCATION**

The program commences in **Byron Bay** where water, sand, and sun collide. Laidback Byron Bay provides a fantastic introduction to laidback Australia where you’ll become familiar with your course material, instructors and fellow students. Mix in an included kayak trip with dolphins (and maybe whales), a trip to the volcanic remnant Mt. Warning, and optional activities like snorkelling or horseback riding and you’ll be pinching yourself.

Then onward to **Darwin**, at the ‘Top End’ of Australia, including a four-day camping expedition to the World Heritage-listed **Kakadu National Park** to experience its spectacular scenery and its distinctive plants and animals.

From Darwin, the program journeys to the **Blue Mountains**, Australia’s most visited World Heritage-listed National Park. Three days will be spent exploring the ancient and dramatic landforms of the region. Note: This section of the trip involves various bushwalks (hikes) that would rate as medium – difficult. Please ensure you bring appropriate footwear and clothing.

Students will then be based at UNSW, located 20 minutes from downtown **Sydney** for two weeks. A number of fieldtrips to various locations will be included in this section.

The course will then move to the tropical far-north of Australia with a stay in the **Daintree Rainforest**, the only place in the world where reef meets rainforest. The program concludes in **Cairns**, where students have the opportunity to explore the Great Barrier Reef.
The course consists of 75 hours of class contact time over five weeks comprising field trips, lectures and presentations. The program is valued at 6 units of credit at UNSW; international equivalent of 4 – 8 units of credit each, subject to home institution policy.
BRAD NESBITT
Mr. Brad Nesbitt has worked in conservation and natural resource management for over 25 years with extensive experience in national park and wildlife management, ecological research and survey, and cross-cultural land management with indigenous communities. The owner of two dingoes (dingoes that work with him on some research and control programs!), Brad has a great interest in retaining native top order predators in ecological systems. He currently resides in Coffs Harbour and works as a natural and cultural resource management consultant with the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service on invasive animal control including wild horse control, European fox control, dingo and threatened shorebird conservation and management. Take some time to get to know "Dad Brad" as he was affectionately named by TEAN’s 2014 cohort of students and learn more about his adventures in off-road motorbike riding. When he’s not riding 8500km around Australia on an epic ride, you may find him taking a gander at blacksmithing, bushwalking or out scuba diving.

DR. ROSALIE CHAPPLE
The fastest walker in the Southern Hemisphere, Dr. Rosalie Chapple is a sessional lecturer within the Institute of Environmental Studies (Faculty of Science, UNSW) and has been involved in wildlife and biodiversity conservation for over twenty-five years. Her current research interests reflect her lifelong passion for animals including conservation of quolls and dingoes and management of introduced fauna such as wild horses. Her excitement for wildlife and nature are apparent as you witness her in her part-time home and favorite stomping grounds, the Blue Mountains, where she also co-founded the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute. During your program, you’ll enjoy bush walks with Rosalie where you’ll be able to quietly (she hopes) observe nature at its finest and perhaps engage in a little yoga or meditation in conjunction with fantastic experiential learning.

GEOFFREY ROSS
With a boundless enthusiasm for wildlife, Mr. Geoffrey Ross is ready to take students to some of his favorite spots in Australia for viewing local flora and fauna. Geoff is the Coordinator of Marine Fauna Program for the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service and has over thirty years of experience in the field of Wildlife Conservation and Management. Geoff’s passion is wildlife conservation and loves spending time bird watching in National Parks, kayaking in Australia’s beautiful rivers, fishing or whale watching along the coast. Be cautious when asking Geoff about what might be lurking outside of your tent in Kakadu National Park, though!

THE EDUCATION ABROAD NETWORK
505 N. LaSalle, STE 200
Chicago, IL 60654
312.239.3710