

Program: Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation
Location: CIEE Research Station Bonaire
Course Title: Cultural and Environmental History of Bonaire
Instructor: Rita Peachey, PhD
Contact Hours: 30
Credit Hours: 2 semester/3 quarter
Course Code: ECOL 3002 BONA

Course Description

A strong conservation ethic has been developed on the island of Bonaire, which has a distinctive and interesting multicultural heritage. The Cultural and Environmental History of Bonaire investigates the environmental and cultural changes in Bonaire from pre-history through the present. Bonaire is examined from a historical vantage point including an examination of Bonaire's indigenous roots, the impacts of colonization, slavery, salt industry and tourism. Bonaire's ongoing social, political and environmental issues will be examined to deepen insights into the interplay between culture and environment. Topics include: tourism, endangered habitats and species, sustainable development, politics, music, cultural events and festivals, environmental valuation, international environmental agreements, natural resources, and ethnobotany.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course the students will:

- be familiar with the importance of Bonaire's environmental and cultural history regarding its present leadership role in environmental protection
- be able to relate how Bonaire's culture differs from their own and other cultures
- be able to relate the environmental challenges and accomplishments of the people of Bonaire
- be familiar with areas and items of cultural and environmental significance throughout the island
- have experienced first hand some of the cultural events on the island and developed an understanding of the unique interplay between culture and environment that has differentiated Bonaire
- be able to speak some Papiamentu

Course Requirements

Readings and short research assignments are fundamental components of the course. Therefore, students are expected to fully participate in lectures and seminars and complete all reading and research assignments prior to class meetings. **Readings will be assigned a week in advance.**

Weekly Schedule	Lecture/Seminar	Excursion/Classroom Activity	Guest
Week 1:	Bonaire's Multicultural History	Circle Island FT	Rona Tour
Week 2			
Week 3	WEDNESDAY CLASS Washington/Slagbaai	National Park FT	George Thode
Week 4	Papiamentu Classes (4 hr of instruction)	FORMA	Margie Thode
Week 5	History of Rincon	Town tour & botanical hike FT	Maria Soldachi Tours
Week 6	Caves of Bonaire	Lecture & FT	Hank Sanders
Week 7	Music of Bonaire	Lecture & FT	Boy Janga

Week 8	Bonaire's culture	Spring Lecture Series	Elsmarie Beukenboom
Week 9	Environmental Policy & International Agreements	Flamingo sanctuary FT	Eric Newton
Week 10			
Week 11	Political Ecology	Discussion of Bonaire's Future	Governor Domacasse
Week 12			
Week 13	Birds of Bonaire	Lecture & FT	Jerry Ligon
Week 14			
Week 15	Simidan Festival & Final Exam	Rincon FT	Papy Cicilia

Methods of Instruction

Course content is delivered through a combination of excursions, guest lectures, assigned readings, and group discussions. Course grades are comprised of participation, assignments, a 5 page term paper, and a final exam. By the end of this course, students will gain a greater appreciation for and knowledge of Bonaire's diverse history, people, culture, and environment.

Assessment and Final Grade

Participation 40%

Assignments 15%

Term paper 15%

Final 30%