



S F S THE SCHOOL
FOR FIELD STUDIES

Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values SFS 3020

Syllabus

The School for Field Studies (SFS)
Center for Marine Resource Studies (CMRS)
South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands

This syllabus may develop or change over time based on local conditions, learning opportunities, and faculty expertise. Course content may vary from semester to semester.



COURSE CONTENT SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please note that this is a copy of a recent syllabus. A final syllabus will be provided to students on the first day of academic programming.

SFS programs are different from other travel or study abroad programs. Each iteration of a program is unique and often cannot be implemented exactly as planned for a variety of reasons. There are factors which, although monitored closely, are beyond our control. For example:

- Changes in access to or expiration or change in terms of permits to the highly regulated and sensitive environments in which we work;
- Changes in social/political conditions or tenuous weather situations/natural disasters may require changes to sites or plans, often with little notice;
- Some aspects of programs depend on the current faculty team as well as the goodwill and generosity of individuals, communities, and institutions which lend support.

Please be advised that these or other variables may require changes before or during the program. Part of the SFS experience is adapting to changing conditions and overcoming the obstacles that they may present. In other words, the elephants are not always where we want them to be, so be flexible!

Course Overview

Studying the use and conservation of marine and coastal natural resources requires scrutiny from many different natural science and social science perspectives. We will focus on human interactions with local natural systems, and vice versa. Understanding the roles that nature-society interactions such as agriculture, resource extraction, fishing, tourism, and associated development play in the protection of natural areas from human disturbance is crucial to the present and the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). Our primary goal is to discover how we may encourage sustainable human-environment relationships. With a hands-on, team-work focus on conservation and sustainable development, this course will help you comprehend the connections between theory and practice. It will also provide you with the on-the-ground practical skills and tools necessary to critically analyze management of the human-environment nexus. Because tourism, development, fishing, and conservation are simultaneously social, cultural, economic, and ecological phenomena, holistic critical thinking can help to create more sustainable programs that will benefit natural and social worlds.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, you should:

1. Be able to describe the key events in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as comprehend the social, economic and cultural dynamics of the country.
2. Understand the assumptions and theories behind economic and political decision-making when applied to natural resources.
3. Be able to describe a variety of ways (economically, ethically, emotionally, rationally, aesthetically, ecologically, anthropocentrically) that people assign value to natural resources and ecological systems, and be able to use tools that measure such value.
4. Comprehend the different types of information that social science approaches can collect, and where such information is best applied or otherwise.
5. Be able to explain the need for environmental policy and discuss the practical and ethical issues surrounding management of fisheries and tourism development.
6. Be able to discuss the ethical and social implications of treating natural, biological, and ecological systems as 'natural resources' that are amenable to scientific 'management' or as 'environments' for human occupation, rather than as entities with inherent value and non-utilitarian rights to exist.
7. Be able to explain the social, economic, cultural, and ecological costs and benefits of various approaches to marine management and policy-making, including in relation to the governance of protected areas. You should be able to do this with focus on the TCI.
8. Describe the potential economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of tourism development on small island developing states.
9. Be able to use a variety of social science techniques to conduct your own successful research with a variety of marine environment stakeholders.

Thematic Components

This course will be divided into four topical components:

1. The Turks and Caicos (human) context – history, economics, politics, culture
2. Social science tools and methods (qualitative and quantitative)
3. Assumptions and theories behind natural resource decision-making

4. Decision-making and policy with regard to two major TCI economies – fisheries and tourism

The course will generally follow these topics in this order; however some topics may be covered out of order, such as the mid-semester field trip for instance.

Assessment

The evaluation breakdown for the course is as follows:

Assessment Item	Value (%)
Class Exercises & Participation	10
Reading Quizzes	15
TEV Report	15
Bluemind Project	10
Mid-Semester Exam	15
Survey Design & Presentation	15
Negotiation Position Paper	10
Final Exam	10
Total	100

Class Exercises & Participation (10%): Everybody should be prepared for each academic session. This implies reading the materials for each session with enough detail to be able to ask relevant questions; and to participate in analytical discussions about the key issues. Active participation during classes, discussions, assignments and field trips is expected.

Reading Quizzes (15%): There will be five pop quizzes on the required reading throughout the semester, each valued at 3% of your final grade. These short quizzes are used to help encourage careful reading.

FEX1: Total Economic Valuation Report (15%): This field exercise will give you the chance to apply an economic valuation method used in policy making to an important South Caicos natural area. After learning about this method in class, we will visit a nearby area to assess the status of the ecosystems present. You will be working as a team to write up a formal report on the value of ecosystem goods and services in this area.

Bluemind Project (10%): “Bluemind” is part of the neurobiology movement, focusing on the effects of exposure to nature on the human brain. After discussing this topic in class, you will produce a creative work exploring your relationship with the ocean. Through this reflective exercise, you will become more aware of non-extractive values of the marine environment. Your submission for this assignment will be completed individually, and presented to students and staff in an evening session.

FEX2: Survey Design and Presentation (15%): In class before the field trip, we will create a survey which we will conduct in Providenciales. Based on the data we collect, you will work in teams to analyze the data and develop a formal presentation discussing the results and implications of our survey. This project will focus on improving our understanding of tourism in the TCI.

Negotiation Position Paper (10%): We will be conducting mock negotiations relating to the creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Each student will be assigned a particular position and write a two-page position statement prior to the exercise.

Case Study Exams: Exams are based on all aspects of the course, including lectures, readings, and field exercises. You will need to prepare for these exams throughout the course, as the days preceding the exams can be busy with other activities and assignments, for this course as well as your other courses. You are fully responsible for staying on top of the material, including required reading as well as everything covered during course lectures, field trips, and exercises. The mid-semester exam is worth 15% of your final grade, and the final exam is worth 10% of your total grade.

Grade corrections in any of the above items should be requested in writing at least 24 hours after assignments are returned. No corrections will be considered afterwards.

Grading Scheme

A	95.00 - 100.00%	B+	86.00 - 89.99%	C+	76.00 - 79.99%	D	60.00 - 69.99%
A-	90.00 - 94.99%	B	83.00 - 85.99%	C	73.00 - 75.99%	F	0.00 - 59.99%
		B-	80.00 - 82.99%	C-	70.00 - 72.99%		

General Reminders

Readings – You are expected to have read all the assigned readings prior to each class. Assigned readings will be available on the student server. Anything contained in the readings is fair game for the exams. You may read some things you don't agree with, but that is part of being a scholar.

Plagiarism – using the ideas or material of others without giving due credit – is cheating and will not be tolerated. A grade of zero will be assigned for anyone caught cheating or aiding another person to cheat either actively or passively.

Deadlines – Deadlines for written and oral assignments are instated to promote equity among students and to allow faculty ample time to review and return assignments before others are due. As such, deadlines are firm; extensions will only be considered under extreme circumstances. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 10% of your grade for each day you are late. After two days past the deadline assignments will not be accepted anymore.

Appropriate use of technology – SFS has worked hard to provide internet access to all its staff and students. Inappropriate uses include gaming or video/music downloading. **Laptops/tablets are permitted in lectures for the sole purpose of note taking.** Any inappropriate use (e.g. accessing the internet, working on assignments etc) will result in this privilege being withdrawn. **Cellphones are not permitted in lectures.**

Naming assignments:

1. Word documents, Excel documents, and PDFs for all individual assignments, exams, reports should be saved as... **FirstName_LastName_Assignment**

Example... John_Smith_Literature Review

3. Group assignments should be named...

Group#_Assignment

Example... Group1_DataAnalysis

Participation – Since we offer a program that is likely more intensive than you might be used to at your home institution, missing even one lecture can have a proportionally greater effect on your final grade simply because there is little room to make up for lost time. Participation in all components of the course is mandatory, it is important that you are prompt for all activities, bring the necessary equipment for field exercises and class activities, and simply get involved.

Course Content

Type: D: Discussion; **FL:** Field Lecture; **L:** Lecture; **GL:** Guest Lecture; **FEX:** Field Exercise; **DEX:** Desk Exercise; **E:** Exam; **W:** Writing; **P:** Student Presentations

*Readings in **Bold** are required

No.	Title and outline	Required Readings	Type	Hours
EP01	Course Introduction: We will go over the syllabus and discuss the structure and characteristics of the course.		L	1
EP02	A Brief History of the TCI: In this class we will begin to cover Turks and Caicos Islands history, including the rise and fall of several industries as well as the evolution of several socio-cultural phenomena. We will start before the ‘landfall’ of Columbus, take in the eras of slavery and colonialism and finish on modern day South Caicos.	Mills, C (Ed.). 2008. Chapter 25 Sadler, H. E. De Fontaubert, C. and Harding, J. (2003) <i>Optional:</i> Ch. 1 of Mills	L	1
EP03	Guest Lecture?		GL	0.5
EP04	South Caicos Scavenger Hunt: Explore how marine resources are used in community life as well as effects of tourism on the community and landscape		FEX	2
EP05	Guest Lecture?		GL	0.5
EP06	TCI Economy, Culture and Environmental Regulations: This class will be a test of your practical research skills, as well as of your ability to work in a team to prepare a presentation for your peers. Your task, to be outlined further in class, will involve you bringing new material about the TCI to	Mills, C (Ed.). 2008. <i>Chapter 5</i>	L DEX	3

No.	Title and outline	Required Readings	Type	Hours
	class.			
EP07	Saltiness and Power: How has the political and economic landscape of the TCI been shaped by salt? We will watch and discuss a short film about the history of the salt industry on Grand Turk, the capital of the TCI.	Mills, C (Ed.). 2008. Chapter 10-13, 16	L D	1
EP08	Field Trip – Fish Processing Plant: This is the first of a number of field trips to familiarize you with the main economic activities of South Caicos. The seafood industry is the biggest industry on South Caicos. You will get a chance to see local fish being landed into the island’s seafood plants and to see the processing of this fish to a state where it is ready for sale.		FL	2
EP09	Introduction to the Social Sciences: In this lecture you will be introduced to the various social science fields and the research approaches used in them. You will also be introduced to some of the basic methods for analyzing social science data.		L	1
EP10	Introduction to Decision Making and Policy	TBA	L	1
EP11	The ‘Isms’: Post-colonialism and Neoliberalism	TBA	L	1
EP12	Traditional/Fisher Ecological Knowledge	Silver, J. and Campbell, L. 2005 Johannes RE, Freeman MMR and Hamilton RJ. 2000. Walley, C. J. 2002	L D	1
EP13	Ecosystem Services: Ecosystems like coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds are more than just habitats for marine organisms; they provide a number of ecosystem services. Scientists and policy makers are now starting to attach monetary values to these ecosystems.	TBA	L D	1

No.	Title and outline	Required Readings	Type	Hours
EP14	Total Economic Valuation FEX: In this field exercise you will work in teams to survey a designated ecosystem, which you will then have to attach a value to. In this first part of the practical you will collect all the data you need.		FEX	3
EP15	TEV FEX Write Up: A chance to write up your total economic valuation paper based on the fieldwork in EP17.		W	1
EP16	Conceptualizing 'Nature'	Cronon, W. (1996). 7-28, 47-55.	D	2
EP17	Human Behavior and Rationality	Hardin, G. 1967. TBA	L DEX D	2
EP18	TEV FEX Write Up: A chance to write up your total economic valuation paper based on the fieldwork in EP17.		W	1
EP19	Bluemind	Nichols, W. J. (2014). [selections TBA]	L	1
EP20	Ecotourism	TBA	L D	1
EP21	Landscape Change and Amenity Migration	TBA	L D	1
EP22	Fishing Communities and Small Scale Fisheries	TBA	L D	1
EP23	Seafood Markets and Marketing: In this lecture you will learn about the seafood industry and seafood marketing. In particular you will learn about steps taken by industry and NGOs to ensure that seafood sold is sustainable, and the caveats to seafood certification.	TBA	L D	1
EP24	TBA (make up day)		L	1
EP25	Exam I Review		L	1
EP26	Bluemind Presentations		P	1

No.	Title and outline	Required Readings	Type	Hours
EP27	EXAM I		E	1
EP28	Planning Social Science Research: In this lecture you will learn all the steps you need to take before embarking on social science research. This will include the design of field materials, the gaining of permission for research, ethical considerations, and the choosing of field sites/study sites and sample populations.		L	1
EP29	Survey Preparation		DEX	1
EP30	Survey Preparation		DEX	2
EP31	Tourism and Industry in the TCI: You will receive a two-day tour of North and Middle Caicos, its tourist sites, and its sites of social, ecological and cultural interest.		FL	5
EP32	Social Science Research Techniques: Providenciales: In this field practical you will put into use the lessons learned in EP27, EP28 and EP29 in order to investigate how seafood consumption is changing in the Turks and Caicos. You will survey tourists, expats, and locals on Providenciales.		FEX	5
EP33	Field Trip and Case Study I Exam Review: A chance to get feedback on your exam performance and debrief from our field trip.		L	1
EP34	Survey Analysis		L	2
EP35	Social and Economic Impacts of MPAs	TBA	L	1
EP36	Field Trip Survey FEX prep time		W	2.5
EP37	Field Trip Survey FEX prep time		W	0.5
EP38	Survey Presentations		P	1
EP39	Politics of Marine Management: Mock Negotiations		DEX	2
EP40	EXAM II		E	1

No.	Title and outline	Required Readings	Type	Hours
EP41	Exam II Debrief		L	1
		Total contact hours		60

Reading List

*Readings in **Bold** are required.

Cronon, W. (1996). The trouble with wilderness: a response. *Environmental History*, 1(1), 47-55.

De Fontaubert, C. and Harding, J. The Conquerors of the Deep (2003) www.timespub.tc/2003/06/the-conquerors-of-the-deep/

Hardin, G. 1967. The tragedy of the commons. *Science* 162: 1243-1248.

Johannes RE, Freeman MMR and Hamilton RJ. 2000. Ignore fishers' knowledge and miss the boat. *Fish and Fisheries* 1: 257-271

Mills, C (Ed.). 2008. *A History of the Turks and Caicos Islands*. Macmillan: Oxford.

Nichols, W. J. (2014). *Blue mind: The surprising science that shows how being near, in, on, or under water can make you happier, healthier, more connected, and better at what you do*. Little, Brown.
[selections TBA]

Sadler, H. E. 1997. Turks Islands Landfall: A History of the Turks and Caicos Islands. United Cooperative Printers Ltd: Kingston. p. 96-101; 132-151; 259-264.

Silver, J. and Campbell, L. Fisher participation in research: dilemmas with the use of fisher knowledge. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 48.9-10 (2005): 721-741.

Walley, C. J. They Scorn us Because We are Uneducated: Knowledge and Power in a Tanzanian Marine Park. *Ethnography* 3.3 (2002): 265-298.