"BIOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY OF TROPICAL ISLANDS"

Environmental Science, Policy and Management C107 • Integrative Biology C158

Professors:  
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Web sites:  
Class:  [http://ib.berkeley.edu/moorea](http://ib.berkeley.edu/moorea). We will be adding material to the page over the summer--we will notify you by email.  
Gump Station Web Site, [http://moorea.berkeley.edu](http://moorea.berkeley.edu). This might be the best place to look for general information about Moorea and travel.

Important Class Dates for 2005 (* = tentative):  

**May 9:** Non-refundable deposit of $500 due.  

**Aug 29:** Monday, class begins in Berkeley, 3083 VLSB,  
*9 am - 12 noon every day and 1-4 pm most days.* Each meeting is important, so we expect full attendance.

**Aug 29:** *** Remainder of class fees due. ***

**Sept. 3-5:** Field trip to Bodega Marine Lab ([http://www.bml.ucdavis.edu/](http://www.bml.ucdavis.edu/)), in Bodega Bay (2 nights, 3 days). More details about this trip in August.

**Sept. 18:** Sunday evening, first function at Gump Research Station, Moorea, French Polynesia

**Nov. 18:** Friday, class finishes in Moorea followed by a week break.

**Nov. 28:** Monday, required class meetings begin again in Berkeley in 3038 VLSB at 9 AM.

**Dec. 5:** First draft of paper due.

**Dec. 12:** Second draft of paper due.

**Dec. 14:** Class mini-symposium--project presentations.

**Dec. 16:** Revisions of final papers due for inclusion in the "class reports" book to be deposited in the UCB Library, Gump Station, sponsoring departments, and offices of officials in French Polynesia. We are under a tight schedule to read these, so there will be a penalty for late papers.

**Dec. 19:** Semester ends; grades available.
**Money matters**

Anticipated costs of the course will be $3,700 for housing, food, in-country travel (after you reach the Gump Station up until the end of the Moorea part of the course in November) and materials fee. You will be responsible also for between $700 and $900 for round trip airfare from Los Angeles to Tahiti. See the Gump Station website for travel information and/or talk to your own travel agent. *Financial assistance is available for qualified students through the Financial Aid Office, 211 Sproul Hall. Students currently on financial aid can have their fall budgets and allocations adjusted to reflect these additional costs; please see your financial aid counselors about this and/or talk to us.*

**The balance of fees will be due the first day of classes in the Fall semester, so be prepared!** Anyone who is does not pay this amount by the second week of classes will be presumed to be unable to take the class, and an alternate will be selected.

Items that are not covered in these fees include your entertainment, special dietary needs or wants, trinkets and gifts, private travel, recreation, personal toiletries, soap, and other personal items.

**Visa and Health Information**

You are responsible for getting your own visa. You must first have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of stay. For visa information see: [http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org/english/visa/en_vs_index.html](http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org/english/visa/en_vs_index.html)

An extended tourist visa is required for all (including Canadians) except nationals of Australia and EU. To obtain an extended tourist visa, you should go yourself to the French Consulate General (540, Bush Street, San Francisco CA, 94108; open to the public from 9 to 12 am). With the following (but, please also check the website to see if anything has changed before you go!):

a) Passport valid for at least 6 months beyond length of stay.
   
b) Two completed application forms; these can be downloaded from: [http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org/english/generalinfo/en_gi_index.html](http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org/english/generalinfo/en_gi_index.html)
   
c) Two passport-size photos.
   
d) Fee to be paid in cash only if application is by person; money order only if by postal application. Credit card is also accepted.
   
e) Evidence of sufficient funds for stay, such as last three bank statements.
   
f) Letter from Neil Davies from the Gump Station guaranteeing lodging, etc. We will provide this.
   
g) Proof of health insurance that includes coverage for duration of stay. This has to be more than just your health insurance number.
   
h) Return or onward ticket including all the documents needed for next destination.

As far as health concerns, you do not need any special shots or other preventive measures. Malaria is present only in the outer islands. Dengue fever is present, but avoiding mosquitoes is the best deterrent. As with any foreign tropical area you might want to bring along a small personal first aid kit that includes aspirin, sudafed, imodium or Pepto-Bismol, band-aids, calamine lotion, aloe cream, .... You might want to bring mosquito repellent (whatever works for you), though they have very good, repellants down there. Everyone must have some form of health insurance, which you will need also for your visa, and you should check to see if it covers emergency medical evacuation. More information will be given later.
**Water Skills**

Everyone will be expected to participate in exercises in the lagoon. Swimming skills are essential and snorkeling is desirable. You should practice snorkeling in the ocean or pool so that you are comfortable with the gear. For this class and for Moorea everyone will be expected to have her/his own mask, fins and snorkel, as well as diving booties and gloves (gardening gloves do just fine). We recommend getting a good solid pair of booties for walking around on the reef, etc. These items can all be purchased around the Bay area, but if you have them already don’t forget to bring them in the Fall. Again, more info about this will be discussed at the beginning of the semester.

**General Supplies (we will update this list over the summer on the class website and by email):**

- loose fitting clothing
- bathing suit
- insect repellent
- sunblock/sunscreen
- shorts with pockets (for carrying items)
- waterproof notebook (will discuss this in class)
- good raincoat
- warm jacket or something warm
- snorkeling equipment (see above)
- personal first aid supplies
- good walking shoes
- army knife (but don’t carry it on the plane)
- water bottle
- hat
- sunglasses
- camera/film (digital recommended)
- flashlight
- daypack
- guitar, frisbee, ...

Remember that everything is much more expensive on Moorea, so it is best to bring all your personal items for the duration of your stay. You can buy almost anything you need there, but bring of money (or a credit card) if you do.

All of your personal gear must go in one bag; class food, supplies and equipment will go in the other bag you are allowed. So plan to pack light -- everyone must help to transport general class supplies from the US to Moorea.

**Should you bring your own laptop computer?**

Your own personal computer is not required, but it is recommended. The Gump Station has a DSL network that can be accessed with a standard ethernet cord or wireless (wifi). Because you will be writing reports and analyzing data in this course, there will be significant computer use. The Gump Station does have some computers for general use, and you may use these, but you will find it easier to have your own. An old laptop is fine, so if you have access to an old one (or can borrow someone’s old laptop), you do not need to go buy a new one for this class. There are a lot of old computers kicking around. If you do buy a computer before the fall, wireless capability will be useful.

**Course Texts**

We will use these texts, which you may want to look at them over the summer:

1. *Island Biogeography* (Whittaker)
3. *Handbook of Biological Investigation, 6th ed.* (Ambrose et al.)

**Gump Station Rules**
The Station rules will be handed out for your information and again for you to sign in the fall. Also, remember that in a foreign country you are ambassadors for Berkeley and the US, and you must behave accordingly. We do need to emphasize the importance of these rules, which are based on common sense. The station has the authority to send disruptive students home at anytime. The local authorities are also quick to take action on legal matters, which at a minimum would be expulsion from French Polynesia. We want to particularly underline the prohibition against illegal drugs. You must not transport, purchase, sell or use them; doing so would jeopardize more than just your future, it would endanger the future of this class and the station. The class, the station, and the local authorities, must be very strict on this issue.

**The Risks of International Education**

French Polynesia is a remote, foreign country with a non-English official language. As a result, living in French Polynesia entails some risk, including, but not limited to, potential problems with rapid access to health care, dangers associated with roads, vehicles, and traffic signs, dangers associated with beaches, shores, boat use, and water activities, dangers associated with trails and forests. While most of these risks are no greater than one would face in California, one must ALWAYS be careful and USE common sense. Each student must remember that she/he takes full responsibility for their actions.