

Program Name - IMAGINE

Course – NR 595 Socio-ecological research methods 6 credits

Fields of study – African studies, Biology, Botany, Cultural Anthropology, Landscape Studies, Ecology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Geography, Natural Resources, Public Outreach, Public Health, Planning, Sociology, Sustainability Science, Tourism, Wildlife Management, and many others.

GPA requirement – 2.8

NCSU students only – NO

Possible Dates – May 26 – July 1, 2012

Stay the entire time for a month long adventure, or participate in 1-2 week research and tourism modules.

Prerequisites – none – This is a truly interdisciplinary course and it would be difficult to require that students have an in-depth background in any one field of study. However, students should be prepared to do a significant amount of preparatory reading before and during the course.

The Program -

Kruger National Park (KNP) is one of the world's largest and most extraordinary conservation areas. This area is not only home to the "Big Five" (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhino, and Buffalo), but is also a place of truly forward-thinking management strategies for biodiversity conservation. Here we can engage with scientists studying all aspects of life in the park, from wildlife management to nutrient cycling, as this is a hot spot for ecological studies.

However, conservation areas are under a huge amount of stress, facing challenges associated with climate change, potential over-population of wildlife species, tourism, and, perhaps most importantly around KNP, growing communities along the border facing economic hardship. In this one place, we can evaluate key questions regarding the management of resources, ecological stability, health and well-being of communities, and sustainability. Students will have unique access to research facilities, camps, and communities closed to the general public while engaging with a diversity of scientists and managers to solve real-world problems.

For further information regarding the syllabus and schedule please see:
<http://urbanecologylab.wikispaces.com/IMAGINE>

Excursions and Events -

We will have the opportunity to work in the field with armed rangers in close proximity to wildlife, go on many adventurous drives in open game-viewing vehicles, experience African Bushveld at night with search lights, visit remote iron-age archeological sites, work with communities on the border of Kruger National park with diverse musical traditions of dance and drumming, experience living in remote villages to observe resource use first hand, as well as vast local knowledge of traditional plant remedies.

Accommodations and Meals –

We will stay in well-equipped and picturesque research facilities both in the park and in surrounding communities. For a few nights students will also live in home-stays within the Venda community in HaMakuya. All meals are provided by a local catering business and will include a variety of high quality meals, including night-time Braais (South African grill over fire). Vegetarian options are available.

Flight Information –

Students will be required to book their own flights to South Africa through a designated travel agent well in advance of the departure date. Land transportation in South Africa is arranged for by the director and the costs are already included.

Application –

Apply on-line through the study abroad office. Early application is strongly recommended as there are a limited number of students we can accommodate on this type of program.

Financial Aid -

To make this adventure a reality, NC State students can apply for partial funding through a [study abroad scholarship](#) from the Study Abroad Office.

In addition, [Financial Aid](#) is generally available to help qualified NC State students meet the expenses of NC State study abroad programs.

Students from other institutions should contact the study abroad and financial aid offices of their home institution for further information.

Students needing financial support should also include a statement of need in their application letter.

More Information will be posted at:
<http://urbanecologylab.wikispaces.com/IMAGINE>