Term Information

Effective Term	Spring 2022

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area	Earth Sciences
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	School of Earth Sciences - D0656
College/Academic Group	Arts and Sciences
Level/Career	Graduate, Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog	5242
Course Title	Exploring the Natural History of The Bahamas
Transcript Abbreviation	Nat Hist Bahamas
Course Description	The study of the geology and natural history of the small Bahamian island of San Salvador including an international 7-day field trip to the island during spring break.
Semester Credit Hours/Units	Fixed: 4

Offering Information

Length Of Course	14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week, 6 Week, 4 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course	Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component?	No
Grading Basis	Letter Grade
Repeatable	No
Course Components	Seminar, Field Experience
Grade Roster Component	Seminar
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Sometimes
Campus of Offering	Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites	A student must have taken an introductory earth science course (or equivalent) such as EARTHSC 1100, 1105, 1108, 1110, 1121, 1151, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206(S), 2210, 2122, or 2155. Permission of instructor required for registration.
Exclusions	
Electronically Enforced	Yes

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	40.0601
Subsidy Level	Doctoral Course
Intended Rank	Junior, Senior, Masters, Doctoral

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- This field course will provide unique opportunities for students to examine first-hand the geology and natural history of diverse ecosystems on San Salvador Island, connect with their surroundings and discover the impact humans have on the island.
- 1. Students will learn how The Bahamas formed and what shapes the islands today by reading and discussing these topics and making observations themselves.

  2. Students will identify ecosystems of San Salvador Island in the present and in the past.
- 3. Students will understand and appreciate first hand how humans impact this small island.

  4. Students will reflect on this international field experience and share insight gained with their peers and the public.

Content Topic List

- + The Bahamas platform: geology and biology of this shallow-water marine environment

  + Human impacts on a small island ecosystem

  + Geologic history of San Salvador Island written in its sedimentary rocks

  + Modern natural & anthropogenic processes
- + Coral reefs

  + Sandy beaches, sediment composition, physical and chemical weathering

  + Ocean currents, waves, and tides

  + Hurricanes

  + Karst features

  + Extreme weather events and climate change

  + Pollution

Sought Concurrence

No

Attachments

- Education Abroad Reauthorization Review.pdf: Education Abroad Authorization

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Griffith,Elizabeth M)
- EARTHSC 5242 Bahamas syllabus v4.pdf: Updated Syllabus

  (Syllabus. Owner: Griffith,Elizabeth M)
- Credit Hour Allocation Rationale for Study Abroad Program.docx: Credit Hour Allocation Rationale

  (Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Griffith,Elizabeth M)

Comments

- - Was the course offered before? (There is an OIA reauthorization document attached?)

  This course was originally authorized by OIA for Spring 2021, but due to COVID this course did not happen. A reauthorization was received for Spring 2022 (even though it was not offered before).

  - Panel will expect to see list of required texts, articles etc in syllabus. See item 8 https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements

  Thanks, we have added reading to the schedule of classes in the syllabus.

  - The schedule in the syllabus should also include the pre-and post-departure seminars. See item 14 https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements

  Thanks, we have moved and expanded these seminars in the schedule of classes in the syllabus.

  -The in-country part does not only seem to include structured educational experiences as mentioned on p. 2. There also seems to be some formalized instruction(?)

  Yes, this is now clear with the course credit hour allocation rationale. *(by Griffith,Elizabeth M on 08/20/2021 12:08 PM)*
- Elizabeth, Maybe we should meet/talk about the course? There are a number of things that are unclear:
  - Was the course offered before? (There is an OIA reauthorization document attached?)
  - Panel will expect to see list of required texts, articles etc in syllabus. See item 8 https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements
  - The schedule in the syllabus should also include the pre-and post-departure seminars. See item 14 https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements
  -The in-country part does not only seem to include structured educational experiences as mentioned on p. 2. There also seems to be some formalized instruction(?)
  - A credit hour rationale needs to be submitted. See appendix 7 in ASC Curriculum and Assessment Operations Manual https://asccas.osu.edu/sites/default/files/ASC_Curriculum_and_Assessment_Operations_Manual.pdf
  -I have changed the subsidy level of this course to doctoral. It is appropriate in this case.)
  (Like I said, a call or Zoom might be best.) *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 07/17/2021 12:13 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Griffith,Elizabeth M	07/13/2021 06:49 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Griffith,Elizabeth M	07/13/2021 06:49 AM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	07/17/2021 12:16 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Griffith,Elizabeth M	08/20/2021 12:09 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Griffith,Elizabeth M	08/20/2021 12:09 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	09/20/2021 11:43 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Cody,Emily Kathryn Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin,Deborah Kay Hilty,Michael Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	09/20/2021 11:43 AM	ASCCAO Approval

EARTHSC 5242 Exploring the Natural History of The Bahamas.

Spring Education Abroad Program

School of Earth Sciences, The Ohio State University

Class Meetings and Location: one class period per week (Mondays) for 2 hours, 5-7PM, Columbus Campus, Orton Hall Room 080

Class Numbers: ##### undergraduate students, ##### graduate students

Professors: Dr. Elizabeth Griffith, griffith.906@osu.edu
Office: Mendenhall Laboratory Room 327
Dr. Jill Leonard-Pingel, leonard-pingel.1@osu.edu
Office: Orton Hall Room 217; Alford Science Center 241 (Newark)

Office Hours: **Griffith** ZOOM office hours: Monday 9:30-11:00am (link on Carmen)
Leonard-Pingel ZOOM office hours: Tuesday 10:00am-11:00am (link on Carmen)
or by appointment, please email

Course Description: The study of the geology and natural history of the small Bahamian island of San Salvador including an international 7-day field trip to the island during spring break. Prereq: A student must have taken an introductory earth science course (or equivalent) such as EARTHSC 1100, 1105, 1108, 1110, 1121, 1151, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206(S), 2210, 2122, or 2155. Permission of instructor required for registration (through online application).

Goals and Learning Outcomes:

This field course is designed to provide unique opportunities for students to examine first-hand the geology and natural history of diverse ecosystems on the small Bahamian island of San Salvador, connect with their surroundings during the international field experience, and discover the impact humans have on the island.

Specific learning outcomes:

1. Students will learn how The Bahamas formed and what shapes the islands today by reading and discussing these topics and making observations themselves in the field.
2. Students will explore ecosystems of San Salvador Island in the present, learn how to identify these ecosystems in the geologic record, and compare these past and present ecosystems.
3. Students will understand and appreciate first hand how humans impact this small island.
4. Students will reflect on this international field experience and share insight gained with their peers and the public.

In addition, work for this course will develop and improve the following skills:

1) a student's ability to read, understand, and discuss scientific literature
2) a student's oral presentation and communications skills and ability to work in teams

3) a student's ability to use the sedimentary record to infer conditions in the past
4) a student's comfort level working in the field and maintaining a field notebook
5) a student's ability to communicate science to their peers and the public

Course components:

(1) **Pre-departure seminars** in the US covering the following topics: (a) the geological evolution of the Bahamas platform, (b) natural history and ecology of San Salvador Island, and (c) natural resource availability and human impact on San Salvador Island.

(2) **In-country structured educational experiences and seminars** led by OSU instructors, student presentations and discussions, lab activities, visits and guided tours of diverse ecosystems (beach and rocky shore, sea grass, coral reef, mangrove, and hypersaline lakes) and geologic features (sedimentary sequences, caves, sea cliffs, dunes, and karst formations). Students will explore how these natural systems and resources are impacted by natural and human factors on different timescales.

(3) **Post-departure seminars** in the US focused on human impacts on the natural environment of San Salvador Island.

Course Grade will be based on the following:

Topical review and presentation 10% - Prior to departure, you will choose a topic (e.g., reef organisms, lake geochemistry, karst formation, Pleistocene climate, carbonate rocks and petroleum reservoirs, hurricanes, climate change) to research and complete a **five-page** report on the topic with appropriate references and citations. We will distribute a list of topics that you can choose from on Carmen. You will share your knowledge with the class during pre-departure or post-travel meetings or during the education abroad experience by preparing a short (10 minute) presentation and assisting in leading a discussion related to the topic. Expectations for graduate students are higher than that for undergraduate students as indicated in the grading rubric for the written document and oral presentation.

Class activities, participation 50% - You are expected to complete pre-lecture quizzes (open book/notes), fully participate in activities, assessments, and seminars, including arriving on time and capable of participating in each day's activities while we are in the field (not just tagging along). This includes treating all presenters and each other with respect, asking questions, and making the most of this educational experience in The Bahamas. Graduate students enrolled in this course are expected to initiate and lead discussions amongst their peers inside and outside of the classroom.

Field notebook 20% - You will take detailed notes in your field notebook including sketches and maps of the sites visited, observations, results and discussions from field and lab activities.

Student reflections 10% - You are required to write three reflections during the course. One will be prior to departure, one in the field and another after we return to

Columbus. Each reflection will be roughly two pages in length and cite relevant course references and include personal thoughts. This is your opportunity to reflect on (i) what you are learning in the classroom prior to departure and what you are looking forward to personally experiencing abroad, (ii) what you are learning in the field abroad about the course content and yourself, and (iii) how the experience has changed your personal knowledge of a particular topic and expanded your world view.

Class blog 10% - The class will be publicly sharing our experience (with friends, family, and others) through a web blog. Everyone will contribute a blog post on the website during the trip which will include at a minimum a paragraph about a particular activity and a picture. We will assign students to a particular day prior to departure, and encourage you to share the website with your family and friends.

The following will yield letter grades:

100-93% **A**; 92-90% **A-**; 89-87% **B+**; 86-83% **B**; 82-80% **B-**; 79-77% **C+**; 76-73% **C**; 72-70% **C-**

Academic Integrity (Academic Misconduct): It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/.

Any material submitted in this course must represent your own work. If you have any questions about whether you are acting in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, please ask us BEFORE an assignment is turned in.

Expectations for Conduct: In the spirit of this institution's values of inclusion, diversity, collaboration, and integrity, and in an effort to ensure that this class remains a place where everyone can feel safe, comfortable, and welcome, we ask that you:

- behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times
- treat students, staff, and faculty with respect at all times
- be mindful of how your actions and language impact others

In addition, during the field portion of the course we expect that you will

- Arrive on time and capable of participating in the day's field trip (not just tagging along).
- Attend and fully participate in evening activities.
- Obey all local laws and rules of the Gerace Research Centre. We are not responsible for your legal problems.
- Put safety first, **always**.

Costs: …to be determined

Additional costs include incidentals on the island and acquiring items below.

Things you will need:

****** PASSPORT *******
Field notebook (Rite In The Rain is highly recommended) and pencils
Mask/fins/snorkel and a way to carry them
Bathing suits, beach towel, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
Insect repellant
Money in small denominations (there are no ATM's or banks on San Sal)
Chargers
Camera / spare batteries
Shoes with sturdy soles – can be Chacos or water shoes, but coastal karren is nasty stuff
A pair of old sneakers

Other useful items:
-The water will be around 75 degrees, so wet suits aren't absolutely necessary, but useful for people who get cold (like me). 2mm shorty wetsuits can work well up to 3 mm fullsuit.
-Snacks-everything is expensive on the island, you can save a lot by bringing popcorn, nuts, crackers, granola bars. That way you can save your money for other incidentals.
-A sweatshirt-it does get cool in the evenings
-A light cover-we'll be driving around in open trucks, so you will be exposed to the sun a lot. It helps to be able to coverup while we're traveling. It can also feel very cold driving in the back of the truck after getting out of the water
-Rain gear
-You don't need a lot of clothes, but it is expected that we will clean up and look decent for meals at the research station dining hall.
-Laundry detergent-there are several washing machine available so you can run a load while you're there (air dry)

Statement on disability services: The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information:

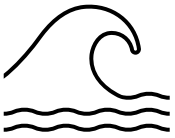
slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Please make an effort to speak with the instructors of the class to discuss any accommodations that you may need to complete the field work BEFORE we depart for San Salvador Island.

Statement on Diversity: The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Statement on sexual misconduct/relationship violence: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Statement on religious holidays: The University recognizes/observes holidays as listed on http://controller.osu.edu/pay/pay-holidays.shtm If you observe any other religious holidays, please make special arrangements *in person with the instructor within the first two weeks of class.*



Careers in oceanography "offer the possibility of adventure and the satisfaction of making meaningful contributions toward understanding our planet." https://scripps.ucsd.edu/education/careers https://www.noaa.gov/work-with-us

Careers in geosciences "can offer an engaging lifestyle and a wide variety of opportunities." https://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/career-resources Consider taking additional classes in the School of Earth Sciences and explore opportunities here at Ohio State. Please feel free to talk with the Instructor or any faculty or students in the School of Earth Sciences for more information. https://earthsciences.osu.edu/

Course Schedule (subject to change):

Week	*Topic*	*Pre-reading (on Carmen)*	*Assignment*
1: Jan 10	Group icebreakers and getting to know each other, overview of course and topics; **Introduction**: *The Bahamas platform:* introduction to the geology and biology of this shallow-water marine environment	Buchan (2000) The Bahamas, Marine Pollution Bulletin, Vol. 41, pp. 94-111 [read first 7 pages, p. 94-100]	Pre-class Quiz 1
2: Jan 24 (Leonard-Pingel)	Preparing for the trip, discussing modern cultural practices and privilege; **Human impacts on a small island ecosystem**: lessons from the Lucayans of San Salvador	Blick (2007) Pre-Columbian impact on terrestrial, intertidal, and marine resources, San Salvador, Bahamas (A.D. 950-1500). *J for Nature Conservation* Vol. 15, pp. 174-183. Baxter (2016) A comparative view of San Salvador's Plantations. *Proceedings of the fifteenth symposium on the natural history of The Bahamas*, Gerace Research Center.	Pre-class Quiz 2 + Choose research topic & presentation date
3: Jan 31 (Leonard-Pingel)	Uncovering the geologic history of San Salvador Island written in its **sedimentary rocks**; Using the scientific method	White & Curran (1988) Mesoscale physical sedimentary structures and trace fossils in Holocene carbonate eolianites from San Salvador Island, Bahamas. In: P. Hesp and S.G. Fryberger (Editors), Eolian Sediments. Sediment. Geol. Vol. 55, pp. 163-184.	Pre-class Quiz 3
4: Feb 7 (Leonard-Pingel)	**Coral reefs**: "Iconic marine ecosystems"; Valuing ecological interactions to building carbonate reef structures	Chapter 15 (specifically 15.4), Animals of the Benthic Environment, from *Essentials of Oceanography* by Trujillo and Thurman Hughes, T.P. et al. 2017. Coral reefs in the Anthropocene. *Nature* 546: 82-90. ***BREEF's Virtual Coral Reef Field Trip: Life on the Bahamian Coral Reef*** **25 min. video**	Pre-class Quiz 4
5: Feb 14 (Leonard-Pingel)	Looking closer at the stellar white (and pink) **sandy beaches**; Sediment composition, physical and chemical weathering	Chapter 4, Marine Sediments, from *Essentials of Oceanography* by Trujillo and Thurman	Pre-class Quiz 5
6: Feb 21 (Griffith)	**An ocean in motion**: Ocean currents, waves, and tides	https://rwu.pressbooks.pub/webboceanography/ Chapter 9.1, 9.2 & 9.8, 10.1 & 10.3, 11	Pre-class Quiz 6
7: Feb 28 (Griffith)	**Hurricane**s: Understanding these	Fuhrmann et al (2019) Assessment of storm surge and structural damage on San Salvador	Pre-class Quiz 7

	powerful storms and their impact on the geologic record	Island, Bahamas, associated with Hurricane Joaquin (2015)_*Natural Hazards* Vol. 99, pp. 913-930.	
8: Mar 7	Final preparations and pre-trip meeting		Pre-departure Reflection due
Mar 13-19, Spring Break Trip to San Salvador Island, The Bahamas **see in country itinerary (following page)** *Out of country /field Reflection due* *Field notebooks* *Public blog post due*			
9: Mar 21	no class		
10: Mar 28	Field excursion **debrief,** turn in field notebooks, web blog review		Turn in field notebooks; Review blogs (from trip)
11: Apr 4 (Griffith)	**Karst** features and processes on San Salvador Island	Davis "Karst processes and landforms on San Salvador Island, Bahamas" https://serc.carleton.edu/75531	Pre-class Quiz 8
12: Apr 11 (Griffith)	Impacts of extreme weather events and **climate change** on San Salvador Island	Knutson et al. (2021) ScienceBrief Review: Climate change is probably increasing the intensity of tropical cyclones. In: Critical Issues in Climate Change Science, edited by: Corinne Le Qu.r., Peter Liss & Piers Forster.	Pre-class Quiz 9
13: Apr 18 (Griffith)	Impacts of **pollution** on San Salvador Island	Moore (2003) Trashed: Across the Pacific Ocean, Plastics, Plastics, Everywhere. Natural History, Vol. 112	Pre-class Quiz 10
14: Apr 25	**Celebration** and open discussion and reflection on how this experience has changed your scientific and world view		Final written report due; Final Reflection due

in country itinerary on the following page

In-country course itinerary (subject to change due to conditions on the island):

Sunday, March 13
Day 1: Arrival in San Salvador, Orientation to the field station, introductory snorkel in Graham's Harbor

Monday, March 14
Day 2: *Beaches and substrates*
Coast Guard Beach - modern beach sediments and beach rock
North Point – Eolianites, sedimentary structures, and trace fossils
Snorkel in Cut Caye – Substrates and associated biota; Carbonate producers- calcareous green algae, sediments, marine grasses

Evening: Class meeting and Lab – Sand analysis, identification of collected grasses and algae

Tuesday, March 14
Day 3: *Coral Reefs*
Visit Cockburn Town *Fossil* Reef; Snorkel in Fernandez Bay – *Modern* Coral Reefs; Snorkel at Bamboo Point – Rocky substrate biota, sandy substrate biota

Evening: Class meeting and Lab – Coral identification, taphonomy

Wednesday, March 15
Day 4: *Stromatolites and coastal environments*
Visit Storrs Lake and stromatolites, Upper parts of Pigeon Creek and Mangroves, Snorkel Pigeon Creek Tidal Channel and Delta

Evening: Class meeting and Lab - Water chemistry

Thursday, March 16
Day 5: *Karst environments and human impacts*
Visit Owl Hole, Dripping Rock and Altar Caves, Watlings Blue Hole and Watlings Castle, Sandy Point, Snorkel in French Bay

Evening: Night snorkel or star gazing

Friday, March 17
Day 6: *Interior Lakes and Beach Monitoring*
Interior lake hike and push coring, visit to East beach and possible snorkel, beach clean up and beach profile

Evening: Class meeting and Lab - Core investigation

Saturday, March 18
Day 7: *Island flora and fauna*
Boat trip to Green Cay and/or White Cay or Hike inland to interior lakes around research centre with snorkel

Evening: Conch BBQ / group dinner

Sunday, March 19
Day 8: Depart San Salvador (direct to Miami)

Credit Hour Allocation Rationale for Study Abroad Program

EARTHSC 5242 Exploring the Natural History of The Bahamas

Spring Education Abroad Program

"On-campus" Instruction on Columbus Campus, Mondays 5-7pm, Orton Hall Room 080:

2 hours of instruction (OSU faculty-led instruction, discussions) x 13 days

= 26 hours / 12.5 hours per credit hour = 2.08 **= 2 credit hours**

"In-country" Education Abroad (San Salvador Island, The Bahamas):

Formalized instruction (OSU faculty-led)

Day 1 = 1 hour cultural & safety orientation and instruction, ½ hour orientation snorkel
Day 2 = 1 ½ hours field instruction + ½ hour evening lab instruction, discussion
Day 3 = 1 ½ hours field instruction + ½ hour evening lab instruction, discussion
Day 4 = 1 ½ hours field instruction + ½ hour evening lab instruction, discussion
Day 5 = 1 ½ hours field instruction
Day 6 = 1 ½ hours field instruction + ½ hour evening lab instruction, discussion
Day 7 = 1 ½ hours field instruction

= 12.5 hours / 12.5 hours per credit hour = **1 credit hour**

Other required or structure educational experiences (e.g., independent but assigned observations of geological, biological, local cultural phenomena documented in field notebook and field activity worksheets and "labs")

Day 2 = 2 hours field observations + 1 hour snorkel observations + 1 ½ hours evening lab observations
Day 3 = 2 hours field observations + 1 ½ hours snorkel observations + 1 ½ hours evening lab observations
Day 4 = 2 hours field observations + 1 hour snorkel observations + 1 ½ hours evening lab observations
Day 5 = 2 hours field observations + 1 hour snorkel observations + 1 hour evening snorkel or star gazing observations
Day 6 = 2 hours field observations + 1 hour snorkel observations + 1 ½ hours evening lab observations
Day 7 = 2 hours field observations + 1 hour snorkel observations

= 25 ½ / 25 hours per credit hour = **1 credit hour**

GRAND TOTAL = **4 credit hours**

Education Abroad Reauthorization Review Status Update - Exploring the Natural History of the Bahamas

Sturges, Kyle B. <sturges.31@osu.edu>

Fri 6/4/2021 11:18 AM

To: Griffith, Elizabeth M. <griffith.906@osu.edu>; Leonard-pingel, Jill S. <leonard-pingel.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Gbur, Charlie <gbur.9@osu.edu>; Cope, Virginia <cope.38@osu.edu>; OIA Education Abroad Program Manager <OIA-EAPM@osu.edu>; Simmons, Jeannie <simmons.272@osu.edu>; Simmons, Dru <simmons.541@osu.edu>; Volk, Michael C. <volk.89@osu.edu>

06/04/21

Dear Professors Griffith and Leonard-Pingel

Greetings from the Office of International Affairs (OIA) Education Abroad unit.

Thank you for submitting a Program Reauthorization Form and Agreement for the **Exploring the Natural History of the Bahamas** program for **Spring Break 2022.**

After internal review by OIA Education Abroad and International Risk Management, your Reauthorization has been approved and may proceed with standard program planning activities.

However, we do recognize that there are unique considerations for this program including onsite transportation, activities in the water, and a remote location. During program planning, we will be happy to discuss these considerations and how they may impact the program's ongoing viability.

Approval is also contingent upon ongoing review of your proposed itinerary of activities and locations by the university's international risk management team.

I offer this summary of program features:

Education abroad course and term of course registration and course load

- This is a faculty-led education abroad program. Students will be enrolled in an **EARTHSCI 2#####, 5##### course TBD**
- Any questions regarding impact of this course on your 2021-22 course load should be directed to the head of your academic unit.
- The **EARTHSCI** course must be set up with special course attributes for study abroad once it is confirmed that the program has filled. Your departmental scheduler will be required to set up the course according to instructions provided by the Office of the Registrar.

OIA coordination, fee setting process, recruitment and application deadline

- **Charlie Gbur** will be the specialist for this program and will be in touch with next steps

- Responsibility for program recruitment will be shared by International Affairs and ASC.

- To maximize university resources and provide affordable programs for Ohio State students, should the program not meet minimum enrollment, it may be cancelled.

- All education abroad programs are strongly encouraged to arrange a group flight. Group flights benefit from many administrative, financial, logistical and risk management support that is otherwise lacking when booking individual airfare. A Resident Director is expected to travel on both outbound and return flights with the cohort. This responsibility may be shared between Resident Directors with one traveling with the cohort and the other returning with the cohort.
    - For programs traveling over winter break or spring break, given the brief time frame and tight schedules, group flights are imperative to ensure the cohort arrives and departs together to support academic and programmatic continuity.

- The program fee for this program will be set in a collaborative process between OIA and ASC once OIA has collected information on program costs. Changes to the itinerary are not possible after the program fee has been set. Further information on the program fee process and deadlines can be found on our website for Current Resident Directors.

Please know that you are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns as we move through the program development process.

We look forward to working with you and the College of Arts and Sciences on this education abroad opportunity.

Best,
Kyle

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Kyle B. Sturges
Associate Director, Education Abroad
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614-292-6101 Office
sturges.31@osu.edu / oia.osu.edu
Pronouns: he/him/his