



FIJI

3 credits, Program cost and admin. fee (TBA), plus VT summer tuition
June 13 – 20, 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 8-day, 3-credit experiential program uses the theme of sustainable development to explore the relationship between people and their natural environment. We explore the complex relationships between Fijian cultural practices, conservation of the natural environment, and eco-tourism. Despite several centuries of outside contact and a unique ethnic mix, traditional Fijian values and customs still flourish..

We spend 2-days at the University of the South Pacific taking introductory lectures. This is followed by a 6-day field study which includes several days exploring the pristine coral reefs of the Mamanuca or Yasawa offshore islands and visits to traditional Fijian villages. Some additional pre-departure directed reading and independent study is required..

This program is designed as an optional extension for the short programs in **Australia** and **New Zealand** (although it is also open to all students).

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will:

- Understand the geography, ecology, natural history, and social and political contexts of the Fijian islands;
- Understand the impacts of humans on the natural environment;
- Develop a working understanding of traditional Fijian knowledge of the natural environment, such as in plant use and maritime and subsistence practices;
- Be able to address relationships between human societies and their natural environments from multiple disciplinary perspectives and to develop a complex, multi-faceted and holistic view of human – environment connections that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

HIGHLIGHTS

- AUIP is one of the few organizations that offers you the chance to explore the vibrant traditional culture and spectacular natural environment of Fiji.
- You will spend much of your time out in the field, visiting and observing Fiji first-hand. At AUIP, we believe that students learn from study abroad experiences both in and outside of the classroom.
- You will have the chance to snorkel through clear blue waters to see colorful coral reefs, visit white sand beaches on remote coral atolls, participate in a traditional kava ceremony, and learn from the leading experts in Pacific studies.
- You will learn from leading Fijian academics and professionals with expertise in subjects related to the Humans & the Environment theme.

For more information on this and other study abroad courses
offered by the College of Natural Resource visit:

http://www.cnr.vt.edu/cnr_webpages/study_abroad.htm

and for applications, please go to:

www.educationabroad.vt.edu