

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – Brazil (Spring 2019)

In a Utopian world we would not need a rule book. Everyone will do the right thing. Unfortunately this has not been the case in the last 15 years of running field trips, so I have come up with a few rules for all my Field Experience courses. These rules help me run the trip smoothly and efficiently, with as little interruptions as possible, while protecting you and your classmates from unnecessary interruptions or exposure to harm. If you do not agree with any of these rules, please do not enroll into this course.

1. COURSE INFORMATION

International Sustainable Development is a 4 credit Spring course that involves travel to four main destinations in Brazil: Manaus (Amazonia), Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro), Curitiba (Parana) and Iguacu (Parana), see blog here for full description: www.brasilexperience.weebly.com . The course description and draft itinerary for the trip is included in the blog. In short, we will cover water, energy and natural resource management issues during the trip. In order to go on this trip, students must take ENVL 4500, listed as ENVL (Field Experience Prep) and participate in all prep activities (especially the prep trips). The prep course includes discussions of all the issues we will cover on the trip.

2. FEES

All students must pay for 4 Spring 2019 credits (included in Flat Rate tuition for the Spring) PLUS a **non-refundable fee** of \$3,950 to cover transportation and lodging costs. This amount also covers entrance and user fees for all the places we will stay. It does not cover any excursions students decide on when we get there e.g. the boat tour to the bottom of Iguacu Falls. The payment schedule for the trip is

April 15th: \$350

May 15th : \$600

July 1: \$800

August 1: \$1,000

September 1: \$1000

The non-refundable deposit of \$200 must be paid upon signing up for the trip.

Airline tickets will be purchased in July, so if you decide to withdraw from the trip after that you will be responsible for getting a refund from the airline (some may give you credit on future flights). You will not be able to get any refunds for any activities and bookings (e.g. hotels) because those are non-refundable as they are booked for a group that includes you as part of that

group. This is also true for hotel bookings because we make them with a specific number of people in mind. Some students have received partial refunds if a replacement is found in time (with enough time to do the prep work).

3. TRANSPORTATION, VISAS and VACCINATIONS

Most of the trip travel will be done by plane. All flights will be reserved by me (Tait Chirenje) and all students will get their confirmation numbers at least a few weeks before we travel. Vaccination information has been provided and it is the student's responsibility to make sure they get this done before the due dates in the fall. Vaccination information for Yellow Fever and Hepatitis A and B has been provided to everyone on the course website. I do realize that there are some people who feel strongly about vaccination. If you do not want to get vaccinated for any reason, I certainly respect that, but you **cannot** go on my field trip because of the health risks posed by the places we go (I am the one who has to take care of you if you get sick on the road). We will apply for visas as a group in early September. For that reason, everyone must have a passport by September 15th, and be ready to submit a visa application by then (we will do the application together). If you miss this deadline you are on your own (this year I will do a second batch in mid-October, especially for late comers if the trip is not full). Be on time for the first flight (get there three hours before the flight). If you miss your flight for any reason call the NAMS office at 609 652 4548 (talk to Cheryl Wilson or Jen Marcello). They will give you a few options and, after you have agreed on a specific course of action, one of them will call me and I will work with them to make a decision on whether you can join the group in Brazil or not (at your own expense). Do not call everyone at the University, including the Dean, Provost or President. They are the ones who have approved the above procedure, so they will not override this decision.

4. CONDUCT and PARTICIPATION

Since this is a credit bearing course, Stockton College rules as outlined in the Student handbook apply to this trip (<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/studenthandbook/content/docs/Final%20student%20handbook%20weapons%20redacted.pdf>). This is a dry trip, so do not plan on getting drunk or high on drugs on this trip because I will send you back home with an F for the course. I have sent people home before on the NW/SW Field Experience, so do not test the waters on this.

We will be hearing from a number of different speakers with views that may be very different from what you are used to. Respect them. Pay attention and participate even if you don't agree with them, and ask good questions anyway. Do not act up. I want to be able to bring another group to these places and talk to the same people next year!

Lastly, everyone is expected to participate in cleaning up lodges or other places that host us for activities (if needed), as well as packing and unpacking vans for timely departure while we are on the road. You must also show up to the vans at the designated times when we take breaks. You will be penalized on your participation grade if we are routinely late. We do a lot of flying and driving on this trip and timely departures ensure timeliness for our appointments.

5. PACKING LIST

A separate list will be provided here: <https://brasilexperience.weebly.com/>. Do not over pack. We have very little room in the vans we use once we are in Brazil. If you pack more than the maximum requirements that I go over in class, and we get charged extra (usually \$25 a bag per ride), you have to pay that amount in cash or get rid of some of your stuff.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

Give my cell phone number (352 514 6379) to your parents and loved ones so they can reach me in emergencies via WhatsApp. All students going on this trip must download and install WhatsApp, then add me as a contact so I can add you to our group chat. This is how I will communicate with you throughout the prep period and the duration of the trip. I'll also get local Brazilian phone number when we get there (mostly to reduce costs). You can give that number to your parents to use in case of emergency. I will continue uploading photos and updates to our Facebook page throughout the trip, so your parents are welcome to join that group during the trip: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/89892993982/>. The group is called The NW/SW and Global Field Experience.

Please sign (and date) to show that you read this document and return it to me within a week of signing up for the course. This agreement is updated in December (as needed).

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

DATE _____