



Antarctica

6 credit VT-faculty led course (BIOL 3954)

16 – 29 December 2010 (plus Fall semester weekly webcast lectures)

~\$7995 plus airfare

Course description

Antarctica has been described as the “coldest, windiest, driest, highest, quietest, most remote, and least understood continent on earth”. This study abroad course explores the Antarctica and adjacent sub-Antarctic region (such as Tierra del Fuego and the Southern Ocean), including its history, geology, climate, and marine and terrestrial biology. Special attention is given to contemporary legal, psychological, and anthropological aspects of human activity in the region, conservation of ecosystems, and sustainable use of natural resources. Students attend weekly lectures during the fall (available anywhere via webcast), prepare a research essay in their area of primary interest, and then participate in a 2-week field study in Antarctica and Tierra del Fuego during winter break.

Course objectives

By the end of the program students will:

- Develop, through lectures and assigned readings, an holistic, inter-disciplinary understanding of the physical and social history and current issues in the Antarctic region, including their inter-relationships;
- Develop specialized understanding, through independent research, of one specific area of Antarctic enquiry related to their major (e.g., history of science/exploration, environmental ethics, geology and global climate change, marine bird conservation);
- Through field-based studies, students will develop a nuanced understanding of issues in exploration, exploitation, conservation, and sustainable use of the Antarctic region.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the coldest, windiest, driest, highest, quietest, most remote, and least understood continent on Earth. After a full semester of weekly webcasts, you will spend 10 days aboard an expedition cruise ship to the Antarctic Peninsula, with the chance to see glaciers, penguins, whales, and massive icebergs. Also spend 3 days in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

This program explores contemporary issues in Antarctica and the adjacent sub-Antarctic region, including Tierra del Fuego and the Southern Ocean. We will learn about topics such as:

- Antarctica's history and exploration
- the continent's geology, climate, and marine and terrestrial biology
- legal, psychological, and anthropological aspects of human activity in the region
- conservation of fragile polar ecosystems
- sustainable use of natural resources



For more details and to apply, visit: www.educationabroad.vt.edu/?go=antarcticahumans