

UF IN BELIZE

NGOs, SUSTAINABILITY, & DEVELOPMENT | SUMMER A: MAY 9-JUNE 17, 2022

COLLEGE INFORMATION

College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences
Courses are taught by UF faculty

PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to provide knowledge on how Non-Governmental Organizations (nonprofits) are managed to promote social developments and environmental conservation around the globe. This program includes travels across Belize for field visits with 10 NGOs for a deeper understanding on their operations & impacts. Program assessments include case studies, field visit logs, discussions & presentations.

LOCATION

Belize is a country in the Caribbean, bordered by Mexico, Guatemala, and the Caribbean Sea. It is renowned for its ancient treasures, welcoming residents, and natural beauty. This program will provide students many opportunities to observe its society, cultures, and vibrant ecosystems.

EXCURSIONS

The program includes several excursions to major landmarks and cultural sites, including the Belize Barrier Reef (second largest in the world), St. Herman Blue Hole, Xunantunich Mayan Ruins, a Maya village, and more!

HOUSING

Students will stay in the dormitories of Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, an environmental NGO located between Belize City and Belmopan on a 1000 acre conservation land bordering the Sibun River. Each week during the program, the group will also stay two days in the dorms of Las Cuevas Research Station, Tobacco Caye, Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, and Punta Gorda for field visits to protected marine and forest areas.

LEARN MORE OR APPLY

UFIC Website
internationalcenter.ufl.edu

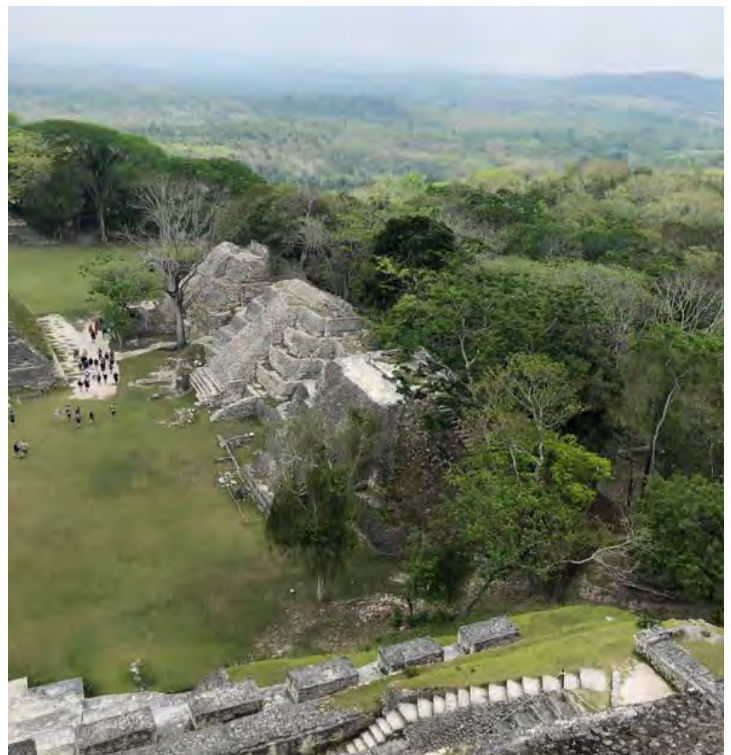
Application Deadline
March 1, 2022

COURSE INFORMATION

All students will earn credit for the following courses:

FYC 4427/FYC 6901: Non-Governmental Organizations (3 credits)
FYC 4932/FYC 6932: NGOs - The Field Study (3 credits)

Total Number of Credits Offered: 6 UF GPA



NGOs, SUSTAINABILITY, & DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER A: MAY 9-JUNE 17, 2022

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Open to all majors and both undergraduate and graduate students
- Must have a 2.5 GPA or higher — Must be in good standing
- Will be required to attend an information session and an interview

2022 PRICING

Undergraduate Program Fee: TBA

Graduate Program Fee: TBA

A \$425 nonrefundable deposit toward the total cost of the program is due at the time of application. The remaining fees are due no later than 45 days prior to departure. If you receive financial aid, you can defer payment until it disburses. Deferment decisions will be based on the amount of aid to be received.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tuition for 6 credits, housing, all meals, program excursions and travel, international health insurance, and emergency medical assistance.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Round-trip airfare, course textbook, additional personal travel and expenses.

FINANCIAL AID

Most financial aid that you would receive on campus can be applied toward the cost of this program. However, all financial aid eligibility is determined by SFA.

SCHOLARSHIPS

UFIC offers many study abroad scholarships, with various eligibility criteria. The Summer 2022 scholarship deadline is February 10, 2022. Apply on our website!



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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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UF ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



UF in Belize – NGOs, Sustainability and Development

Summer A (May 9 – June 17), 2022

FYC4427/FYC6901 & FYC4932/FYC6932

Program Director: Dr. K, FYCS; Assistant Director: Kelly Medley, UF Honors

Program Venue in Belize: Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (MBWS)



Draft Schedule of the Program*

Codes: FYC 4427/6901 Sessions; NGO Field Trips; Excursions, travel & cultural interactions; Guest Presentations/Lectures; Free Day

WEEK 1 (at UF campus or on Zoom)

Monday, May 9 – Friday, May 13

Program orientation and pre-departure information

FYC 4427/6901 Sessions 1 - 3

Sunday, May 15: *Arrival at Belize City* (airport pick-up & check-in at MBWS 2:00 pm or later)

Welcome to Belize!

WEEK 2 (in Belize)

Monday, May 16

NGO Field Trip 1: Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (land & wildlife conservation)

Tuesday, May 17

FYC 4427/6901 Session 4

Guest Lecture 1 (Mr. Jerry Enriguez): Belize: the history, society, people & culture

Wednesday, May 18

NGO Field Trip 2: The Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center (wildlife conservation & education).
Guided day and nocturnal tours of the Zoo

Thursday, May 19

FYC 4427/6901 Session 5

Guest Lecture 2 (local NGO leader): The NGO sector in Belize: legal framework, growth, roles, impacts, issues & opportunities

Friday, May 20

NGO Field Trip 3: The Inspiration Center (disabled youth empowerment)

NGO Field Trip 4: Hand in Hand Ministries (early childhood education, & housing)

Saturday, May 21: Free Day

Sunday, May 22: Free Day

WEEK 3 (in Belize)**Monday, May 23**

FYC 4427/6901 Session 6

Tuesday, May 24

Travel to Dangriga

NGO Field Trip 5 – Garifuna National Council (advocacy and cultural preservation for Garifuna communities)

Arrival at Tobacco Caye by water taxi

Overnight stay at Tobacco Caye

Wednesday, May 25

NGO Field Trip 6 – Tobacco Caye Marine Research Station

Snorkeling tour

Thursday, May 26

NGO Field Trip 7 – ReefKeepers (preservation & awareness education on Belize Barrier Reef)

FYC 4427/6901 Session 7 (on the beach by the Belize Barrier Reef!)

Friday, May 27

Snorkeling at the Tobacco Caye beach

Travel back to Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Saturday, May 28: Free Day**Sunday, May 29: Free Day****WEEK 4 (in Belize)****Monday, May 30**

FYC 4427/6901 Session 8

Guest Lecture 3 (TBD): Government, politics and civic participation in Belize

Tuesday, May 31

Visit to the U. S. Embassy in Belmopan for interaction with diplomats

Guided excursion to Xunantunich Mayan Ruins

Travel to Las Cuevas Research Station & overnight stay

Wednesday, June 1

FYC 4427/6901 Session 9

NGO Field Trip 8 – Friends of Conservation and Development (conservation land management & community development)

Overnight stay at Las Cuevas Research Station cabins

Thursday, June 2

FYC 4427/6901 Session 10

Hiking on the trails of Las Cuevas

Friday, June 3

Caracol Archaeological site visit

Visit to Galen University and interactions with Galen students

Guest Lecture 4 (Provost of Galen U): Higher education system and academic opportunities in Belize

Travel back to Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Saturday, June 4:

Living Maya experience at Maya Women Cooperative Center

Overnight stay at Cockscomb Basin cabins

Sunday, June 5:

NGO Field Trip 5: Belize Audubon Society (protection of native flora & fauna)

Hike on Cockscomb Basin trails and picnic at the waterfalls

Overnight stay at Cockscomb Basin cabins

WEEK 5 (in Belize)**Monday, June 6**

NGO Field Trip 9 – Humana People to People (human rights, indigenous people’s rights and women empowerment)

Travel back to Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 7

FYC 4427/6901 Session 11

Wednesday, June 8

FYC 4427/6901 Session 12 & 13

Thursday, June 9

A day at the beaches of Dangriga

Friday, June 10:

FYC 4427/6901 Session 14 & discussions on NGO field visits

Saturday, June 11: Free Day

Sunday, June 12

Departure from Belize City (airport drop off provided)

Departure!

WEEK 6 (at UF campus or on Zoom)

Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17

FYC 4427/6901 Session 15

Final course assignments, presentations, discussions & debrief

UF in Belize concludes on Friday, June 17!

Stay & travel overview:

The group will stay at Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Dormitories and at field station cabins for 28 nights (Sunday, May 15 – Saturday, June 11). All domestic travels will be on full-size bus.

Important Notes:

- 1) *Due to logistics, travel/traffic, availability of NGO leaders, presenters, and other details involved, there may be changes to the program schedule. Changes, if any, will be announced the previous day of the new schedule.*
- 2) *Program fee includes: six-credit tuition for the two courses, all accommodations, meals & snacks, domestic transportation (bus), entrance fees, NGO field visits, and guest lectures during the week days in Belize as mentioned above. During the weekend (Saturday & Sunday are Free Days), program pays for accommodation and meals & snacks at Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. On free days, Program does not pay for any personal travel, tours, activities, and meals outside Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.*

UF in Belize: NGOs, Sustainability & Development
FYC 6901 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) ¹
(3 Credits) Summer A, 2022

Program Director & Instructor: Muthusami Kumaran (aka. Dr.K)
Associate Professor of Nonprofit Management & Community Organizations
Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences, CALS/IFAS
Assistant Director & Teaching Assistant: Kelly Medley
Lecturer, UF Honors Program
DRAFT SYLLABUS

In Belize: May 15 - June 12
At UF campus: May 9 – 13 & June 13 –17

Course Description: This course explores the nature, roles, operations, and impacts of Non-Governmental Organizations and INGOs across the globe. The course will provide the student with a foundation in understanding NGOs within the geographical, social, political and economic realities under which they operate. The course relies heavily on class lectures, readings, assignments, student presentations on NGO/INGO operations, and class discussions.

Course Goals: The goals of this course are to:

1. Provide the student with basic knowledge on the status and operation of NGOs and INGOs around the world.
2. Improve the student's capacity to analyze the roles and impacts of NGOs based on their missions and client needs.
3. Facilitate the student's understanding of the operations of selected NGOs through case studies.
4. Promote student's ability to conduct research of NGO responsibilities & operations.

Course Objectives: After completing this course students will be able to:

- Describe the variety and size of NGO sectors in various continents and countries.
- Recognize the mission, clients, roles and responsibilities of NGOs and INGOs.
- Explain the governance and management practices of NGOs.
- Interpret the process of developing and assessing NGO programs & services
- Examine the linkages between NGOs and the public (government) sectors.
- Discuss the availability and mobilization of resources for NGOs.
- Illustrate the current trends in NGO and INGO collaboration.
- Conduct brief analytical research on various aspects of NGO operations

Required Text: Students are required to buy the following text book and bring it to Belize for the entire duration of the program:

Casey, J. (2015). *The Nonprofit World: Civil Society and the Rise of the Nonprofit Sector*. Boulder, CO: Kumarian Press. (ISBN: 978-1-56549-530-2).

Edwards, M., & Fowler, A. (Eds.). (2002). *The Earthscan Reader on NGO Management*. Sterling, VA: Earthscan (ISBN: 978-1-85383-848-4).

There will be four additional readings made available as pdf documents on course Canvas.

¹ The Instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus and to make appropriate updates.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Important note: You are required to complete assignments 1 & 2 before your travel to Belize.

Session #	Topics	Reading Assignments
<i>Session 1</i>	Program Orientation, Syllabus & Course Overview	
<i>Session 2</i>	The World of NGOs & INGOs	Casey: chs. 1 & 2 Donnellan (PDF): Standards for International NGOs
<i>Session 3</i>	Grassroots NGOs	Casey: ch. 3 Edwards & Fowler: chs.17 & 19
<i>Session 4</i>	Development NGOs	E&F: chs. 4, 5, 26 & 27
<i>Session 5</i>	International NGOs	Casey: ch. 6&7 E&F: chs.2 & 10
<i>Session 6</i>	NGO Governance, Accountability & Transparency	Casey: ch. 8 E&F: chs. 11 – 13 & 20
<i>Session 7</i>	NGO Resource Mobilization and Sustainability	Casey: ch. 4 E&F: chs.8 & 23 – 25
<i>Session 8</i>	Leadership & Human Resources & Service Delivery	E&F: ch.29 & 30
<i>Session 9</i>	Role of Volunteers in NGO Operations	Handouts (PDF)
<i>Session 10</i>	NGO Capacity Building & Strategic Growth	Casey: ch. 5 E&F: chs.3, 9, 15 &22
<i>Session 11</i>	NGOs' Impacts: Disaster Management & Environmental Protection	Dr.K & Torris(PDF): Role of NGOs in Tsunami Relief Dr.K(PDF): Organizational Needs Assessment and Capacity Building for Environmental NGOs
<i>Session 12</i>	NGOs' Impacts: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	E&F: chs.1 & 21 Dr.K(PDF): Roles of NGOs in Addressing Climate Change
<i>Session 13</i>	Current trends & Future Directions of NGOs	Casey: ch. 9
<i>Session 14</i>	Final course presentations	All!
<i>Session 15</i>	Personalizing lessons of 2022 UF in Belize; Course debrief & discussions	All!

Notes:

1. Each session will have a lecture (about an hour-and-a-half), discussions on assigned readings led by students (10 minutes each), NGO case study presentations (10 minutes each) & follow-up discussions. Some sessions will have student presentation of theme papers.
2. Sessions 1, 2, 14 & 15 will be at UF campus
3. Sessions 3 – 13 will take place at various locations throughout the group's travel in Belize.
4. All course materials including class lecture PPTs, additional readings, assignment instructions & rubrics will be posted on the course Canvas.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	950+
A-	900-949
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
E	<600

Course Assignments: Grades will be based on the following:

Websites review report	150 points
NGO case study	250 points
Theme paper on NGO operations	200 points
Final Paper on NGO management	150 points
Lead reading assignment discussion	100 points
<u>Class participation & discussions</u>	<u>150 points</u>
TOTAL	1000 points

ASSIGNMENTS

1. INGO & NGO websites review report (150 points): Each student will complete a report based on reviews of one major International NGO and a related NGO websites. Based on personal interests, the student can choose any INGO through online search. The student, then, will choose the website of an NGO that also provides same/similar services as the chosen INGO. The INGO & NGO websites review report' (no less than 5 typed pages, double spaced) will be based on the student's thorough review of both the websites. Detail instructions and rubric for completing this assignment will provided on Canvas. Due to the online search involved, students are expected to complete this assignment before the travel to Belize. You are required to submit the electronic copy of your assignment 1 via Canvas on or before May 13, and bring a hard copy of the assignment to Belize.

2. NGO case study (250 points): Students will be required to choose any one actual NGO (not the same NGO chosen for the 'website review report') operating in an assigned continent, and learn about its mission, clients, operations, and impacts. Based on the information collected, the student will develop a written case study report (no less than 5 typed pages, double spaced) and a corresponding PowerPoint presentation. Each student will also make the PowerPoint presentation on her/his NGO case study on a pre-assigned class schedule. It will be a 10 minute presentation followed by Q & A. Detail instructions and rubric for completing this assignment will be posted on Canvas. The written report will be worth 100 points and the presentation will be worth 150 points. Due to the online search involved, students are expected to complete this assignment before the trip. You are required to submit the electronic copies of your NGO case study report and your presentation PowerPoint slides on Canvas on or before June 13, and bring hard copy of both to Belize.

3. NGO operations theme paper and class presentation (200 points): Students will be required to conduct research and write a theme paper (no less than 12 pages) on a chosen field of NGO operations (example: education, health care, women empowerment, youth development, etc.). Students will conduct basic research including a review of existing literature (with at least two journal articles) on how NGOs in the chosen field operate in terms of governance, clients, funding, administration, politics, etc. by giving examples of one INGO and two NGOs from two different countries/continents. Based on the research and conclusions of the theme paper, students will make a class presentation (30 minutes PowerPoint presentation followed by 10 minutes Q & A). Students can consult with the instructor on further details of the assignment and resource materials such as reports, research articles, etc.. The class presentation will be worth 100 points and the written theme paper will be worth 100 points.

4. Final course paper on NGO Management (150 points): Students will be required to complete a final paper on their overall understanding on the roles, management and impacts of NGOs. This paper (no less than 12 pages, double-spaced) will have six sections: roles, types & approaches of NGOs (2 pages); governance, accountability & transparency (1 1/2 pages); resource development (1 1/2 pages); leadership & HR (1 page); strategic growth (1 page); and a case study on assigned NGO that the group will visit, reflecting all above sections (5 pages). The list of assigned NGOs for this case study will be provided on Canvas. There will be two components to the final paper: the written paper (100 points) and the 15 minute presentation of your paper to the class during the final week (June 13 – 17) at UF campus (50 points).

5. Study Circle lead & discussion (100 points): After each course lecture session, students will lead the class in a 10-minute discussion on the assigned reading. Schedule for this activity will be provided. The student will give an overview of the topic(s) covered in the readings (about 5 minutes) and initiate a discussion by asking a series of questions. All students are expected to complete assigned readings in a timely manner and actively participate during study circles. Leading the study circle is worth 50 points and active participation of discussion on readings is worth 50 points.

6. Participation in class & small group discussions (150 points): Students are expected to actively participate during lecture sessions by the instructor, local academics, and NGO leaders throughout the program. They also need to and actively participate in class discussions and small group discussions on various NGO topics.

UFIC POLICIES

Early Departure/Evacuation is departing from a program after the start date and before the end date of a program, and may or may not result in cancellation. Early departure, or evacuation from a program must be approved in writing by the faculty leader, UF Study Abroad Director, and/or Program Provider. In accordance with UF policy, early departure or evacuation from a program may be approved for excused reasons such as illness, serious family emergencies, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and court-imposed legal obligations. Participants who withdraw or cancel must submit to UFIC a signed Notice of Withdrawal form. Verbal withdrawal requests will not be accepted.

Students are responsible for any additional travel and related costs that may be incurred. Refund of program fees for medical evacuation, will be based on UF and UFIC refund policies for Medical withdrawal. Refunds will not be issued for early departure or cancellation from a program for unexcused reasons.

Early withdrawal from a program may have financial aid implications. Students on financial aid must contact financial aid directly.

In accordance with the UF Attendance policy, reasonable accommodations for coursework missed may be made for UF Sponsored programs. In such cases, students should make arrangements with the UF faculty program leader to make up coursework missed due to early departure or evacuation.

No Show, Failure to Participate - Attendance is mandatory for Study Abroad programs. Students who fail to show in the host country for their program or fail to participate may be canceled from the program and withdrawn from the course. See UF Attendance policy for more information. There are no refunds for failure to show for a program. Students must communicate their intent with the faculty program leader, program provider, and Study Abroad Advisor in writing by submitting the Notice of Withdrawal form to the International Center. Excessive Absence may result in a failing grade. See UF Attendance policy.

UF POLICIES

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>.

UF in Belize: NGOs, Sustainability & Development
FYC 6932 NGOs: THE FIELD STUDY

DRAFT SYLLABUS

Course Description: This course focuses on the field trips portion of “UF in Belize: NGOs, Sustainability & Development” to provide students with hands-on experiences of observing the variety, operations and impacts of NGOs in Belize, and in observing & understanding cultures of Belize. NGO field trips will follow specific topics and lectures covered in FYC 6901 so that students will have experiential learning and contextual understanding on NGO operations. The group will visit 10 NGOs for observing their operations and interactions with their staff and clients. Each NGO field visit will last between 3 – 5 hours and begin with a presentation (about 45 minutes) by its leader, followed by a Q&A session, field observations of its facilities, programs/services, and clients. Belize is a developing country where social, cultural, political, and economic realities are very different from that in the U.S.A. Exposure to these elements through a variety of field visits will promote students’ world views and appreciation on social and cultural characteristics of Belize. The group will visit various cultural landmarks and communities. In addition to the field visits to NGOs and cultural centers, students will also have presentations by five local experts, community leaders and university faculty on a variety of topics related to the culture, traditions and society of Belize.

Course Goals: The goals of the NGO and cultural field trips are:

- 1 Provide the student with basic knowledge and skills to observe and/or work with NGOs and INGOs.
- 2 Provide the student with basic knowledge on “in the field” realities of NGOs and their operations.
- 3 Improve the student’s understanding of how NGOs react to various needs of Belizean society and environment by providing specific programs and services to address those needs.
- 4 Promote student’s appreciation on the work of NGOs, given their social, political, resource, administration and operational realities.
- 5 Expose the student to the vibrant cultures and society of Belize.
- 6 Promote student’s understanding and appreciation of the cultural diversity in Belize.
- 7 Promote student’s ability to conduct preliminary research on various social issues in various countries.

Course Objectives: After completing the field trips students will have:

1. Examine the linkages between mission, administration & operations of selected NGOs.
2. Review the physical environment under which selected NGOs operate, their administrative structures, employees and volunteers.
3. Discuss various management and operational details with NGO leaders, officials and employees.
4. Interpret the rationale behind specific programs, services and their methods of delivery to clients.
5. Review the impacts of selected NGOs, given their resource and other limitations.

6. Identify and describe the cultures, traditions, and struggles of Belizean society.
7. Discuss various environmental and social issues with guest lectures and student-peers in Belize.
8. Describe a few historical, cultural, archeological, architectural landmarks of Belize.
9. Enhance capacity to conduct analytical research on social issues.

UF in Belize will visit the following NGOs for field observations, presentations & discussions

NGO Field Visits
1. Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center
3. The Inspiration Center
4. Hand in Hand Ministries
5. Belize Audubon Society
6. Garifuna National Council
7. ReefKeepers
8. Friends of Conservation & Development
9. Humana People to People
10. Tobacco Caye Marine Station

GRADES

Grading Scale:	
Letter Grade	Points
A	950+
A-	900-949
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
E	<600

Course Assignments: Grades will be based on the following:	
Journal1: NGO Field Visit Reports	300 points
Journal2: Weekly reports on the Society, Culture & Environment of Belize	300 points
Research paper about Belize Society	200
Participation in Group Discussions	100 points
NGO Highlight in Final Presentation	100 points
TOTAL	1000 points

ASSIGNMENTS

Students are required to take part in **all** field trips to NGOs and cultural sites.

Field Journals (600 points)

Each student will complete the following two journals based on their field observations and understanding:

1. Field Journal on Observations During NGO Field Trips (300 points):

Each student is required to write a journal of what s/he learned and observed during NGO field trips (mission, services, employees, clients, physical environment, leadership, issues, impacts, etc.). There should be at least one entry per NGO field trip (each at least three written pages long), written within a day or two after the specific field trip. You are required to submit your NGO Field Journals every week to Dr.K on Sunday morning (your journal will be returned to you the following Tuesday morning).

At a minimum, each of your journal entries should provide answers to the following three questions:

- 1. What did you learn about the NGO's mission, administration, programs/services, and impacts during the field visit?**
- 2. What did you observe or learn about the NGO during the field visit that challenged or changed your previous perceptions and/or knowledge? Why did it challenge or change your opinion?**
- 3. What is your 'take home' message(s) from the field visit and how will it contribute to your professional abilities, if you decide to work in nonprofit/NGO sector?**

You can feel free to add any other responses, in addition to answers for the above three questions, regarding each NGO field visit. Grades will be based on the quality of your journal entries. Each three-page entry of the 10 NGO field visits is worth 30 points.

2. Field Journal on Observations on Belizean Society & Cultures (300 points): Each student is required to write a journal of what s/he learned and/or observed about the Belizean society, cultures, people, traditions, forest & marine eco systems, history, issues, etc. There should be at least one entry (each at least five written pages long) every week of the Program in Belize, for a total of at least 4 entries. Each journal entry must have a theme such as 'the Mayan culture,' 'Garifunas of Belize,' 'poverty & social injustice,' etc. You are required to submit your weekly journal to Dr.K each Saturday morning (your journal will be returned to you the following Monday morning).

At a minimum, each of your journal entry should provide answers to the following three questions:

- 1. What were your observations about Belizean society, cultures and environment during the past week (since your last journal entry)?**
- 2. Did your perceptions about Belizean culture, history, nature, society, etc. change during the past week? If so, how?**
- 3. Which cultural or environmental tour, activity or observation during the past week had the greatest significance to you? Why?**

You can feel free to add any other responses, in addition to answers for the above three questions, regarding your observations and perceptions of Belizean society, nature and cultures. Grades will be based on the quality of your journal entries. Each five-page journal entry is worth 75 points.

Research Paper on a Social or Environmental Issue in Belize and class presentation (200 points):

In consultation with the instructor, students are required to choose a topic about any one social or environmental issue faced by Belizean society (examples: Youth crime in Belize, Poverty and food insecurity in Belize, Effects of climate change in coastal communities of Belize, etc.). Based on online research, government & NGO reports, and a few published research articles, each student will write a research paper (no less than 12 pages), develop a PowerPoint presentation, and present it to the class for about 30 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion. The research paper will be worth 100 points and the class presentation will be worth 100 points. Instructions for this research paper will be posted on course Canvas.

Discussions on Belizean Society, Nature, Cultures and NGO Field Trips (100 points):

Multiple times and in multiple settings (during snack times, evenings, before/after meals, during travel, etc.) throughout the Program, we will have informal discussions about the groups' observations on and perceptions of Belizean society, natural resources, cultures, and the work of NGOs visited during field trips. There will also be small group discussions, where groups of three students will discuss certain observations and provide de-briefs to the entire group. Students are expected to actively participate in these discussion sessions. Grades will be based on the level of student participation during these sessions.

Highlight of one NGO visited (100 points) during Final Course Presentation: Referring to the final class presentation of the NGO course (FYC 6423) during the final week at UF campus, each student will highlight one NGO visited by the group. Each student will be assigned an NGO by the Program Director for this assignment. The student is expected to pay special attention during the field trip (asking relevant questions to employees & clients, collecting flyers/brochures about the NGO, taking field notes, etc.) to complete this assignment.

Note: Final Program Schedule with date/time of each NGO field trip and cultural excursion will be posted on Canvas.

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Early withdrawal from a program may have financial aid implications. Students on financial aid must contact financial aid directly.

In accordance with the [UF Attendance policy](#), reasonable accommodations for coursework missed may be made for UF Sponsored programs. In such cases, students should make arrangements with the UF faculty program leader to make up coursework missed due to early departure or evacuation.

No Show, Failure to Participate - Attendance is mandatory for Study Abroad programs. Students who fail to show in the host country for their program or fail to participate may be canceled from the program and withdrawn from the course. See [UF Attendance policy](#) for more information. There are no refunds for failure to show for a program. Students must communicate their intent with the faculty program leader, program provider, and Study Abroad Advisor in writing by submitting the [Notice of Withdrawal form](#) to the International Center. Excessive Absence may result in a failing grade. See [UF Attendance policy](#).

UF POLICIES

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>