

2024 CHANCE Greece Itinerary

BIOL 499: Foreign Studies - Conservation Issues Confronting the Mediterranean Sea and Sustainable Solutions Practicum

Class Day	Day/Date/Place (if applicable)	Course Agenda and Assignments
1	Mon May 20 Athens	<p>Student Arrival 18:00 Orientation 19:30 Welcome dinner by CYA</p>
2	Tue May 21 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Introduction & Course Overview: (15 min)</p> <p>Project Based Learning (PBL): Overview of Assignments (15 min)</p> <p>Ice Breaker Group Activity: Deconstruct an UN SDG and apply it to your life with subsequent class discussion (30 minutes)</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): <i>What is Sustainability?</i> Dr. Lara Fowler; Penn State University's Chief Sustainability Officer and Director Penn State's Sustainability Institute (60 min; ZOOM)</p> <p>19:00 – 20:30</p> <p>Evening Video and Class Discussion: What Happens to Plastic in the Ocean The Mystery of Missing Plastic ENDEVR Documentary (90 minutes)</p>
3	Wed May 22 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>UN SG Group Activity: Choose three UN SDGs and tie them into the overarching theme of global water with subsequent group report out (45 min)</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): <i>Global Water Issues</i>, Dr. Andrew Warner; Director Penn State University's Water Initiative (60 min; Zoom)</p> <p>Video: <u>Water is Life</u> (a geological perspective); PBS, Dr. Stephen Mojzsis. Followed by review of homework assignment (15 minutes)</p>



4	Thu May 23 Athens	<p>9:00 – 12:00</p> <p>Field Trip: Psyttaleia Island for guided tour of Athen’s water treatment facility.</p> <p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Class Activity & Discussion: <i>Water as the Universal Solvent</i> (30 min)</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): <i>Earth’s Terrestrial and Marine Ecosystems</i> (60 minutes)</p> <p>Classroom Activity: <i>What is Biodiversity?</i> Followed by review of homework assignment (30 minutes)</p> <p><u>PBL Milestone #1 submission DUE – “The Life of Plastics” assignment</u></p>
5	Fri May 24 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Classroom Discussion: <u>Ecosystems and Ecological Networks</u> (30 minutes)</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): <i>Species Diversity and Conservation; Dr. Carlos de la Rosa</i>, Conservationist, Scientist, Educator, USA (60 min; ZOOM)</p> <p>Overview and Logistics: Traveling to NGO, <u>Archipelagos</u>, Samos Island and review of required book chapter readings/journaling (30 min)</p> <p>16:30 – 17:30</p> <p>Off Campus Afternoon Group Discussion: Casual get-together to discuss particulars, and to address student questions per required PBL final project, student expectations, and faculty mentorship (60 min).</p> <p><u>Journal Prompt #1 Submission DUE</u></p>
6	Sat May 25 Athens	No class
7	Sun May 26 Athens	No class
8	Mon May 27 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Required Class Reading: Sharma, S., Sharma, V., & Chatterjee, S. (2021). <u>Microplastics in the Mediterranean Sea: sources, pollution</u></p>



		<p><u>intensity, sea health, and regulatory policies</u>. <i>Frontiers in Marine Science</i>, 8, 634934.</p> <p>United Nations Environmental Assembly Mock INC-4 Presentation: <u>Geneva Environmental Network – Plastics and the Environment</u>. and <u>recommended LINK</u>. Penn State Students and Faculty (60 min)</p> <p>Presentation (with Q & A)**: <u>SDGs Dashboard and Metabolism of Cities Living Lab</u>, <u>Dr. Gabriela Fernandez</u>, Metabolism of Cities Living Lab (MOC-LLAB), Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age, San Diego State University, San Diego, California, United States (60 min; ZOOM)</p> <p>**Pre-lecture link: <u>Virtual Exhibition on SDGs</u></p> <p><u>Journal Prompt #2 Submission DUE</u></p>
9	Tue May 28 Samos	<p>FIELD EXCURSION #1*</p> <p>08:00 Departure for Samos Island (Airplane)</p> <p>12:30 Orientation & Briefing: Introduction to marine conservation in the Aegean Sea (endangered species, threats to biodiversity like plastic pollution, fisheries; and joining forces with the local communities) by <u>Archipelagos Institute for Marine Conservation</u> staff.</p> <p>Local Area Excursion (hike): Experience the natural environment of Samos Island with discussion about conservation along the way.</p> <p>19:30 Evening Reflection & Discussion: Chapter 1 – <i>To the Ends of the Earth</i>, E.O. Wilson</p> <p>*Overnight accommodations onboard marine research vessel</p>
10	Wed May 29 Samos	<p>FIELD EXCURSION #1 (continued)*</p> <p>08:00</p> <p>Marine Conservation Fieldwork Part 1: <i>Dolphin/whale research & conservation - with training on the use of hydrophones / dolphin photo - identification techniques, behavioral assessments</i>. There will be a briefing on marine mammal species to be surveyed; the methods used for data collection; and conservation threats and issues.</p> <p>19:30</p>



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		<p>Evening Q & A Round Table: CYA students and Archipelagos staff lead by faculty (60 min)</p> <p>*Overnight accommodations on board marine research vessel</p>
11	Thu May 30 Samos	<p>FIELD EXCURSION #1 (continued)</p> <p>08:00</p> <p>Marine Conservation Fieldwork Part 2: <i>Seagrass research with emphasis on seagrass health, ecosystem services and blue carbon.</i> There will also be a briefing on seagrass habitats, ecology; the methods used for data collection; and conservation threats and issues.</p> <p>**Field work for data collection will be either by boat or kayak, or both.</p> <p>Evening Group Work – Free time to work on PBL assignment.</p> <p>*Overnight accommodations on board marine research vessel.</p>
12	Fri May 31 Samos	<p>FIELD EXCURSION #1 (continued)</p> <p>08:00</p> <p>Marine Conservation Fieldwork Part 3: <i>Zooplankton research and biodiversity followed by microplastic laboratory analysis. Plastic nurdle analysis of beach terrain.</i> Students will report out their group results.</p> <p>Reflection: Chapter 4 – The Planetary Killer. E.O. Wilson</p> <p>PBL Milestone #2 submission due – “Group Topic Selection” paragraph/rationale</p> <p>*Overnight accommodations on board marine research vessel</p>
13	Sat June 1 Athens	<p>FIELD EXCURSION #1 (continued)</p> <p>08:00</p> <p>Departure for Athens</p>
14	Sun June 2 Athens	No class
15	Mon June 3 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): Art as a Voice for Species and Conservation, <u>Jeanne Dodds</u>, Multimedia Artist, Biodiversity Conservationist, Researcher and Educator, Washington, USA (60 min; in person)</p>



		<p>Overview and Group Homework Assignment (Part 1): <i>Geneva Environmental Network – Plastics and the Environment and required LINK.</i> (60 min)</p> <p>Journal Prompt #3 Submission DUE</p>
16	Tue June 4 Kyparissia	<p>Field Excursion #2</p> <p>08:00</p> <p>Departure (chartered bus): Kyparissia (protected beach area in Kalo Nero - southern Greece).</p> <p>Visit: Tour of <u>The Nature Protection Area Archelon</u> - local information center for sea-turtle conservation and familiarization with the local coastal area.</p> <p>19:00 - 21:00</p> <p>Evening Reflection and Group Report Out: <u>Archelon Conservation Data and Conservation Reports</u></p> <p>*Overnight in Kyparissia</p>
17	Wed June 5 Athens	<p>5:00</p> <p>Beach Patrol: Morning beach observation of Loggerhead tracks and nesting site counts.</p> <p>Volunteer Activity: Beach Clean-Up with Archelon staff.</p> <p>Return to Athens</p>
18	Thu June 6 Athens	<p>8:00</p> <p>Visit: <u>Archelon Sea Turtle Rescue Center facilities at Glyfada, Athens</u> - Tour the Sea Turtle Medica Treatment facilities</p> <p>Lunch: Free time to swim</p> <p>Afternoon Volunteer Activity: Beach cleanup in Kavouri - Trash2Treasure. Students will engage in a real citizen science activity. As such, they will collect beach litter and at the same time generate data on the geographical distribution and quantity of the litter collected. This activity will be done after an onsite briefing session on the risk connected to plastic pollution</p> <p>PBL Milestone #3 "Peer Review" due</p>



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19	Fri June 7 Athens	<p>9:00</p> <p>Field Trip: Garbage and recycling facilities in Athens</p> <p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): <i>Plastic Pollution Data Monitoring and Citizen Science, Dr. Domenico Vito and Dr. Carol Maione, Metabolism of Cities Living Lab (MOC-LLAB), Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age, San Diego State University, San Diego, California, United States. (60 min)</i></p> <p>Student Group Report Out – Mock News Broadcast from Geneva</p> <p>(Part 2): <u><i>Geneva Environmental Network – Plastics and the Environment.</i></u> and <u><i>required LINK.</i></u> (60 min)</p>
20	Sat June 8 Athens	No class
21	Sun June 9 Athens	No class
22	Mon June 10 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Lecture (with Q & A): <i>Let the fish speak! Conservation actions for Freshwater Fish, Dr. Stamatis Zogaris, Senior Researcher, Geographer-Biologist, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Anavyssos, Greece. (60 min)</i></p> <p>PBL Presentations: Group-Based Faculty Brainstorming Session (60 minutes) (60 min)</p> <p>Journal Prompt #4 Submission DUE</p>
23	Tue June 11 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Work on PBL Presentations in Class (120 min)</p>
24	Wed June 12 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Work on PBL Presentations in Class (120 min)</p>
25	Thu June 13 Athens	<p>14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Group Check-in (faculty review presentation) Time slots will be made available</p>
26	Fri June 14 Athens	<p>10:00 – 12:00</p> <p>Student Group PBL Presentations</p>

