From: Barbara Blanchard <bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu>
Subject: Alternatives to Cape Cod Field Trip
Cc:
Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2004 16:27:01 -0400

Harvard Distance Education Program
Environmental Management I /ENVR E-101
Fall 2004/ Wednesdays 7:35 - 9:35 pm / Harvard Hall 104
Professors John D. Spengler, PhD & George D. Buckley

ALTERNATIVES to the CAPE COD FIELD TRIP -

About Making Your Choice -

More than half of students enrolled in Environmental Management 1 will not be able to attend the Cape Cod field trip for a variety of reasons. These students must still attend a field trip or event, and summarize their findings in a short paper that is between 4-6 pages of written text, that will be due at the beginning of class on October 20th (or by midnight, Eastern Standard Time for distance students).

The first half of the EM 1 course, until the midterm, focuses on aquatic ecosystems and water resource management issues. Therefore, it is preferred that for this first short paper assignment students choose an aquatic ecosystem to visit, such as a pond, lake, wetland, or coastal zone. The point of the assignment is to get outdoors and practice acting as a scientific investigator in addition to an environmental manager.

Ask yourself three basic questions about the site you visit, and write up your findings and conclusions in your paper:

1. What are the physical characteristics that make the site unique?
2. What are the environmental stress factors present at the site?
3. How could these stress factors be actively managed to achieve protection/preservation?

Attending a guided lecture tour at the site you choose is best, if available. This way, much of the material for your paper will likely be taught to you by a local expert (don't forget to credit your tour guide as a key source of information when writing your paper) and then you can focus on what you learned and spend time being creative about your management ideas for the site. If your tour guide does not cover answers to the three basic questions listed above, be sure you ask plenty of questions of your guide to be sure you...
come away with all of the answers you need to write a thoughtful paper. Always be as specific and concrete as possible when writing your papers. For instance, what are the scientific names of the various flora and fauna you observed? etc. If you are unable to find an organized tour, you may want to head to a wildlife sanctuary or other environmental center that might have posted signs and/or reading materials to assist you in your study. Regardless of whether you find a guided tour or not, you will most likely want to do some preliminary research before heading out on your adventure! This will help you prepare for what you might find, as well as assist in identifying the environmental concerns particular to the site.

FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE BOSTON REGION

Students living outside the Boston area will need to research your local parkland resources for lecture tour opportunities. A good resource to help locate nearby coastal and wetland wildlife sanctuaries is the Audubon Society for your region. If there are simply no aquatic ecosystems in your area, you may select any other type of protected parkland unique to your area to visit. No matter if your site is aquatic, grassy, wooded, or a desert, you should still adhere to the basic premise of the assignment by answering the three questions outlined above.

As a last resort, students outside of the Boston area may select to write about what they learn by attending a lecture or conference event about a notable environmental topic. Investigate the environmental event calendars at your local school, university, town or private non-governmental organization.

FOR STUDENTS INSIDE THE BOSTON REGION

Students in the Boston region who could not attend the Cape Cod Field Trip, should consider organizing their own lecture tour or site excursion. Information has been listed below to assist you in your search. Please remember, the assignment asks you to focus on aquatic ecosystems or water resource management issues. If an outside excursion is not possible (although highly advised!), and you have found another event (such as a lecture, advisory meeting, etc.) that you feel is pertinent, please contact Barbara Blanchard with your ideas.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT TOPIC APPROVALS
FOR ALL STUDENTS

If you participated in the Cape Cod Field Trip or are planning to arrange a visit to a coastal/wetland wildlife sanctuary or other guided tour, you generally do not need to submit your paper topic in advance for approval to the instructors and teaching assistants of EM 1. However, if you decide to pursue an independent tour or another alternative event, please contact teaching assistant Barbara Blanchard at bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu for advanced approval of your topic. Barbara may also have specific advice about how to structure papers on independent topics for best results.

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SUGGESTED LOCAL SITES AND CALENDAR LISTINGS
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1) The Massachusetts Audubon Society has a listing of wildlife sanctuaries. Many of these have
educational centers with lots of available information. The coastal or wetland sites would be ideal for this assignment. To explore their site on the web, you can go to http://www.massaudubon.org/index.php and look up wildlife sanctuaries as well as programs, classes and events. Joppa Flats on Plum Island is a great option for those of you North of Boston.

2) The Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH is also a good option. They have visitor programs that take place on the weekends in October, although I'm not sure what level the programs are geared to. Their website is a good start http://www.seacentr.org/main.html and there is contact information to call for more information.

3) The Harvard Environment Network Bulletin (HEN Bulletin) is a weekly calendar of environmental events in the greater Boston area. The HEN Bulletin is published each Friday of the month by the Harvard University Center for the Environment. This may have some pertinent offerings, but you do need to subscribe to the newsletter to receive them.

4) "Greenbytes" is a newsletter focusing on environmental issues in the New England area. This may be an interesting newsletter to subscribe to for local environmental information. It also contains a calendar of events for the New England area http://www.epa.gov/ne/newseven/index.html.

We hope this information is useful to you all! Please feel free to research other possibilities and contact Barb Blanchard if you have any questions.

Thanks,
The Instructors and Teaching Assistants of EM1

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HELP WITH COURSE INFORMATION
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Get Personalized Help via Email from Teaching Assistants - http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~environment/E126ask-the-TA.html

For Help with Short Paper Assignments ?
For General Course Questions-

contact: Barbara Blanchard
email: bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu

contact: Yurika Nishioka
email: ynishiok@hsph.harvard.edu

For Status of Weekly Feedback/Web Assignments -

contact: Zachary Zevitas
email: Zachary@ScienceNetwork.com

For Help with Graduate Student Research Projects

contact: Christopher D. Zevitas
email: ZevitasC@VOLPE.DOT.GOV
TECHNICAL HELP WITH COURSE WEBSITE

General Technical Help Information -
http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~environment/HelpResources.html

Help with Passwords -
(required to view video lectures from Week 3 on)
http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~environment/passwords.html

Other Web Site Questions -
contact: Zachary Zevitas
email: Zachary@ScienceNetwork.com

REQUIRED SOFTWARE for Viewing Lectures and Assignments

Internet Explorer:
http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/

Realplayer:
http://www.real.com/player/index.html

Adobe Acrobat Reader:

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard Extension School Distance Education Program
COURSE NEWSLETTER FOR ENVR E-101