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Invitation to enroll in GEOG 493 from Denice Wardrop and Joe Bishop

Thank you for your interest in GEOG 493 - Environmental Issues Across the Americas. We are very excited to be able to offer this course, and hope that you can accompany us. The travel part of the course is May 7th through May 22nd. The total travel cost of the trip is set at $4025. This includes all international airfare, all within-Peru travel (airplane, boat, bus, and train), lodging, food (less 4-5 meals), tips, and local guides. Additional expenses, such as passport fees, travel insurance, immunizations, and airport departure taxes vary and we will discuss these individually. A $1000 deposit will be required at time of registration.

This is the sixth year that we have been able to offer this course and the first time that we have extended the field portion to a two-week excursion in May. The course is intended to be an interdisciplinary environmental problem-solving course (examples: Aquatic Resources, Forest Fragmentation, Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Sustainable Livelihoods, Environmental Justice), with emphasis placed on emerging sustainability challenges in Peru.

This international field experience will allow students to investigate the contextual basis of environmental issues and the effect of possible solutions. The course will strive to integrate approaches and research from a variety of academic disciplines involved in human and physical geography, including ecology, economics, literature, history, business, and political science.

Students will work with participating faculty to investigate a topic relevant to the course theme, spend two weeks in Peru pursuing research in the context of an educational trip, and finalize the analysis into a seminar presentation or other significant term project upon completion of travel.

Our travel itinerary includes opportunities to investigate water resources, mining, sustainable development, biodiversity, and human migrations via travel from the high Andes (including Machu Picchu) to the tropical rainforest, with travel on the newly-completed InterOceanic
Highway. The Peruvian portion of the highway connects the western Amazon basin, across the Andes, and terminates at the Pacific Ocean, providing the completion of international trade routes to Southeast Asia; it is posing profound environmental, social, and economic impacts.

This is a 3-credit class; scheduled course time is generally at least once per week. There are no formal or specific prerequisites. Acceptance is based on the individual educational goals of the student, and the application process will consist of an informal interview with the course instructors.

If you are interested, please contact Joe Bishop at jab190@psu.edu and/or Denice Wardrop at dhw110@psu.edu as soon as possible, to schedule a short conversational interview.

For more information see:

- [http://www.geog.psu.edu/students-learn-about-environmental-issues-peru-service-learning-class](http://www.geog.psu.edu/students-learn-about-environmental-issues-peru-service-learning-class)

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Thank you for your continued interest in the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment!

Best regards,
Patricia Craig