

BIOL 214 - Environmental Field Study in Namibia and Botswana

Tentative Syllabus for the Summer 2009

Class Journal (20%)

Each of you will take daily notes on:

- Description of landscape or ecosystem
- Species of common plants and animals (vernacular and scientific names)
- Conservation issues, practices and challenges
- Social, economic, and political aspects related to conservation issues
- Ecotourism
- Any other issues relevant to the environment that you learn from meeting with different people

Written test (25%)

During the last week of the trip, there will be a written examination of the material you have learned. Keep your daily journal update and you will do well in the test.

Research Project (30%)

Each of you will have to select a research topic, possibly before the end of the spring semester. During your time in Namibia, you should take advantage of the in-country resources (people and institutions) to gather enough material to write a research paper after the trip. **Your paper will be due by the end of July 2009.**

Discussion Sessions (15%)

Twice a week we will formally discuss the most significant issues that we are learning on our travel. Each of you will be in charge of the session by introducing the topic and posing questions to be addressed in our discussions.

Participation (10%)

Each of you is expected to contribute to the success of the trip. Respect for people, maturity, patience, cooperation and a good sense of humor are essential to all of us to enjoy this unique learning experience.