

**BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK**

**TROPICAL ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY  
STUDIES IN MONTSERRAT**

**December 31 – January 21, 2023**



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For reference: Program Contract & Waiver

## KEY LOGISTICS

### **Time Difference**

There is a one-hour time difference during the winter between the eastern US and Montserrat.

### **Local currency**

Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD) at an exchange of XCD 2.7 = US \$1. US dollars are generally accepted everywhere, however you will receive your change in XCD.

***No one will accept bills smaller than \$5.00 and the bills must be new and crisp.***

### **Emergency Phone Numbers** (see section on Communication for more details)

On island: Police dial 999 / Fire dial 911

Simon's Rock: 413-644-4400 (24/7)

Calling Montserrat from the U.S.: 1 – 664 – local number (7 digits)

### **Montserrat Volcano Observatory**

The active Soufriere Hills Volcano is monitored by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. Details available at [www.mvo.ms](http://www.mvo.ms). Radio Montserrat can be monitored for information (Radio ZJB).

## STUDENT CHECKLIST

- Covid, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and Tetanus vaccinations
- Passport
- 2 copies of passport – 1 copy left at home; 1 copy given to Tom Coote
- Pre-departure travel plans communicated to Tom Coote
- Acquired snorkel, mask, fins, dive skin, & other equipment
- Adequate supply of all necessary and preventative prescription medications
- Parent/guardian current contact information is on file with Simon's Rock

# TRAVEL ITINERARY

Watch your Simon's Rock email for updates from Tom Coote, who will check everyone in ahead of time and gather the e-tickets and boarding passes.

## DEPARTURE

*Saturday, December 31*

Morning 2:00 am Tom Coote will meet students on campus at the Student Union

2:30 am Group departs for JFK airport  
*Simon's Rock transportation*

8:00 am Group travels from JFK airport to Antigua

5:00 pm Air charter from Antigua to Montserrat

5:30 pm Arrive Montserrat

## RETURN

*Saturday, January 21*

6:30 am Ferry from Montserrat to Antigua

8:00 am Arrive Antigua

*Transition from ferry port to airport*

3:30 pm Group travels from Antigua to JFK airport

9:00 pm Arrive at JFK / Return to Simon's Rock campus\*  
*Simon's Rock transportation*

\*Students who plan to leave directly from JFK on their own must let Tom Coote know ahead of time

## **CULTURE & CUSTOMS**

Bard College at Simon's Rock is visiting Montserrat under the invitation, auspices and guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Land, Housing and the Environment (MAHLE) and the local communities within the project area, and as such, we are guests in Montserrat. As guests, we therefore have a duty to ensure that we behave accordingly and conduct ourselves with every due respect, courtesy and consideration to our hosts.

Everyone will be expected to conduct themselves with the care and consideration that they themselves would expect of any guest in their own home.

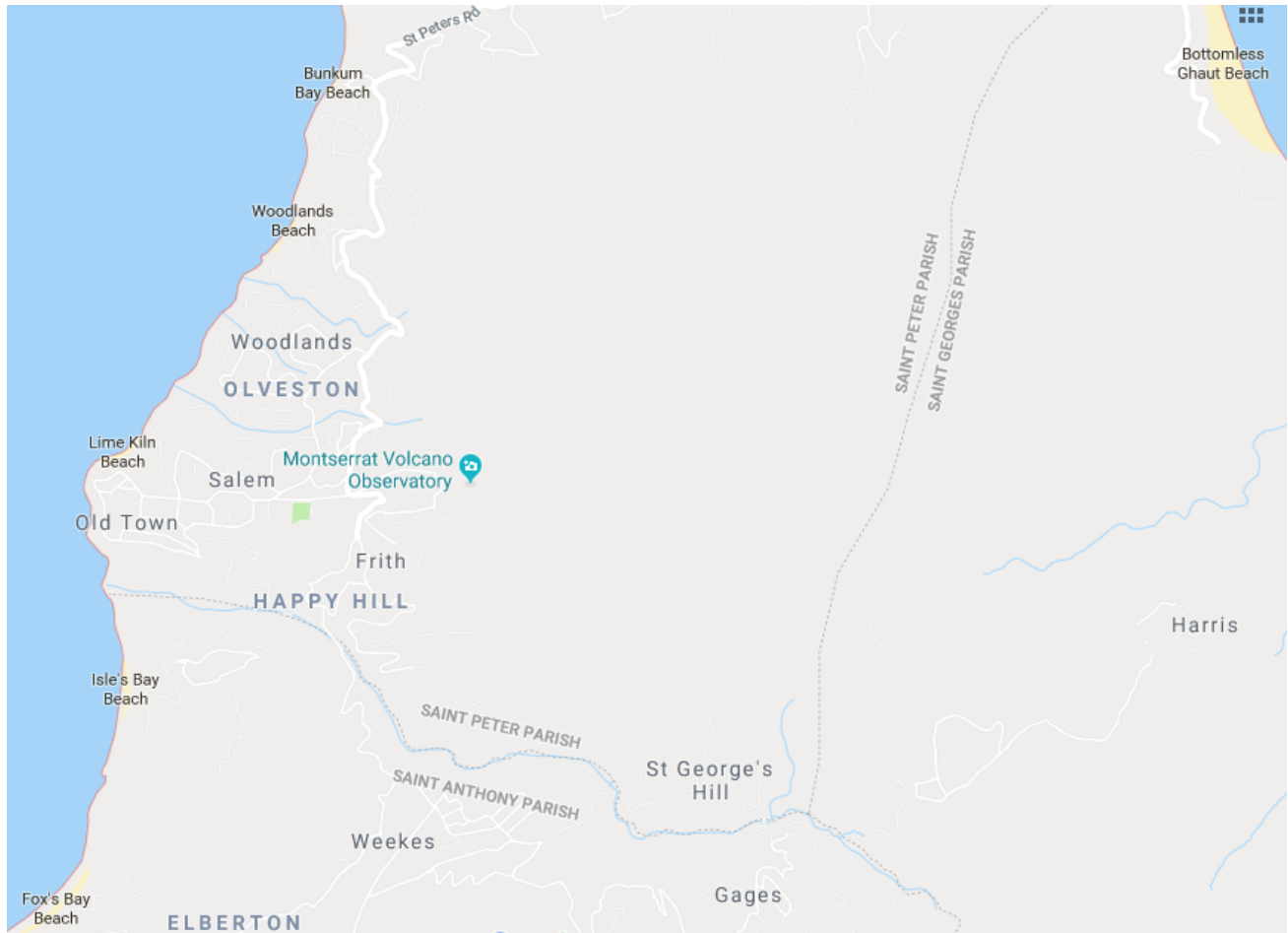
We have worked closely with the Minister to develop this opportunity and we hope to have many years of bringing students to the island to study. Please work with your program staff and fellow students to help build this relationship.

### Soufriere Hills Volcano

Soufriere Hills Volcano had a major eruption in 1997 which essentially closed the southern end of the island – known as the “Exclusion Zone.” However the north end of the island was largely unaffected and the impact of the continued low-level emissions is minor. The volcano is closely monitored by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (details available at <http://www.mvo.ms>) and Radio Montserrat can be monitored for information (Radio ZJB).

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Houses have been rented in an area known as Old Towne. The houses are located near each other. They have Wifi, and some have pools.



## FOOD, MEALS, & CHORES

Groceries are expensive on Montserrat. The meals that are planned are simple and rice and beans will be a staple. Everyone (program staff and students) will be involved in food preparation and cleanup. Breakfast and lunches will be “self-serve” but dinners will be prepared in rotating teams for the full group. The dinner crew will also be responsible for making sure that the kitchen remains in order after breakfast and lunch on their assigned day.

### Recommendations About Food and Water

The water is considered safe and the groups in past years had no problem drinking water from the tap. However, we recommend:

- Eat only thoroughly cooked foods. Boil it, Cook it, Peel it or Forget it!  
This means:
  - No salads! They look good... but you'll regret it!
  - Only eat fruit that you can peel yourself, not fruit that has been pre-peeled and washed for you.
  - Fruit juices may be problematic—best to avoid them or buy juice in a can or bottle.
- Don't eat food that looks like it was cooked yesterday and has been sitting in the sun since then.
- Don't eat food that looks or smells bad.
- If you are eating in a restaurant, eat only cooked food (not fresh foods)
- STAY HYDRATED! Drink plenty of fluids. Got a headache? Drink water. Tired? Drink water. Stomach problems? Drink water! Basically, carrying drinking water at all times of travel is required. Your goal is to pass light colored urine every 2 hours.

These guidelines are mentioned as a precaution to help keep you healthy. Traveler's diarrhea is not pleasant and the bathroom is NOT where you want to spend your time!

### Personal Hygiene & Avoiding Certain Discomforts

- Wash Your Hands Thoroughly and Often!  
Because food is being prepared in groups and served to groups, we ask that everyone pay extra attention to their personal hygiene. Washing hands thoroughly and often can prevent much transmission of bacteria.
- Rinse your ears out with fresh water after swimming in the ocean (to avoid ear infections).
- Body rashes can happen in hot environments with exposure to salt water – avoid wearing wet clothing longer than necessary.

- Do not wear field clothes two days in a row and be sure to wash them in order to avoid picking up chiggers and other biting insects.

### Chores

Assignments will include:

- Dinner Prep Team (includes same day kitchen maintenance after breakfast and lunch)
- House maintenance (kitchen and bathrooms and common spaces)
- Other tasks as assigned by program staff or community-wide decisions
- Weekly housekeeping

A word about septic – all houses are on septic fields. This means there is no town or island water treatment plant. It is an absolute necessity that **ONLY** toilet paper be flushed down the toilets.



## COMMUNICATION

### *Families needing to reach their student on Montserrat*

In the event of an emergency and you must contact your student while they are abroad, please follow these guidelines:

December 31 – January 21, 2023

During office hours (9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday)

Contact Academic Affairs at: 413-528-7247 or 413-528-7240

Evenings & Weekends

Contact Simon's Rock Security: 413-644-4400 or 413-528-7291

Home and cell numbers (please use these only in the case of an emergency and on the off chance that the above numbers don't reach anyone)

Throughout trip: Tom Coote: 413-854-4442 (cell)

During program: Karen Advokaat: 413-281-8628 (cell) / 413-442-7653 (home)

Cell service is not necessarily reliable in the accommodations on the island, however Wifi has generally been very reliable. All the houses have landlines and those numbers will be available through Simon's Rock as needed in the event of an emergency.

### *On Island Emergency Numbers*

Police & Emergency Numbers: Fire 911, Police 999

Police Headquarters: 1-664-491-2555

Emergency Line: 1-664-491-7790

### *General Means of Communication*

If students wish to use their cell phones on Montserrat to make international calls, you will need an international calling plan, or a local SIM card will need to be purchased (at a cost of approximately XCD\$20) and cell phones will need to be unlocked or "open line." Calls are very expensive without pre-purchased international minutes. We recommend that you use Zoom or WhatsApp when at the house through wifi and recommend students turn off their cell service.

## SAFETY & MONEY

### Safety Considerations:

We want you to have fun and enjoy the experience of being abroad in as many ways as you can, BUT we want you to be safe while you're at it! So, here are some basic guidelines:

1. Never go anywhere alone — always go with at least two other people (Rule of 3: 1 hurt, 1 stays, 1 gets help)
2. If you want to explore (go for a walk, hike, jog, or other excursion), you **MUST** check in with a program staff member before you go. Be aware that they may say that you can't go or that they will go with you.
3. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation for any reason, tell at least one of the program staff members.
4. Be discreet. Don't wear flashy clothes, jewelry or watches. When you pay for something, don't pull a lot of cash out of your bag or pocket.
5. Be respectful.
6. All College policies apply: carrying, buying, or using un-prescribed drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated.
7. Must be in good social and academic standing to apply and must remain so through the trip.
8. Speak with your trip leader before the trip about any serious medical issues (including allergies).

### Swimming & Snorkeling

- Always swim or snorkel in groups of three or more.
- Remove all jewelry before swimming or snorkeling.
- Always make sure someone knows where you went and when you expect to be back.

### Money

Credit cards are not widely accepted. Travelers checks can be cashed at banks only. All students should travel with some cash on hand for small personal purchases. Shop keepers will not accept any bill under \$5 and they will reject any slightly dirty or worn bills. Bring fresh money from a bank teller.

The national currency of Montserrat is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) although USD is equally welcome in most establishments. There is no need to change USD into XCD at any stage during your time in Montserrat but bear in mind you may be given change in XCD when purchasing from shops on the island. The exchange rate as of April 2019 was XCD 2.7 = USD \$1.

There is an ATM on the Island at the Bank of Montserrat in Brades but do keep in mind that sometimes the bank machines do not function properly so it is worth keeping a cash reserve.

## **MEDICAL NOTES**

If medical care is required the nearest critical care facility is the Mount St. John's Medical Center on Antigua. There is an air ambulance on standby on Montserrat to transfer people to the hospital on Antigua as necessary. Basic clinic services can be provided by the St. John's Medical Centre on Montserrat.

Simon's Rock is providing the expanded medical coverage for travel abroad. It is up to each individual whether to purchase additional international travel insurance.

## SCHEDULE ON ISLAND

This overview is subject to change to take into account the weather and research agendas.

### Mondays & Wednesday

9:00 am – 12:00	<i>In Class</i>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30 – 5:00 pm	<i>In Class</i>
6:00 pm	<i>Dinner</i>

### Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

Students will work in small groups with their faculty mentors on research and projects, including fieldwork.

### Saturdays & Sundays

Generally Saturdays and Sundays will be the time for a variety of activities including down time (sleeping in, going to the coffee house), exploring the island, house chores and restocking of food and necessities, and doing class assignments and readings.

### **Syllabus & Course Work**

A syllabus and schedule are provided at the end of this packet.

## PACKING LIST

If you have packing questions about what you can carry in your carry-on and what should go in your checked bag, see [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov) (where there is a useful app about luggage). If you have any questions about what to purchase or what Simon's Rock can provide for you, contact Tom Coote.

### Luggage:

Limit yourself to a maximum of one personal bag, plus one carry-on *or* one checked bag:

- Personal item size limit is 38 linear inches (17"x13"x8") (i.e. backpack)
- Carry-on bag size limit is 45 linear inches (14"x9"x22") and 40 lbs.
- Checked bag size limit is 62 linear inches (length + width + height) and 40 lbs. There is a fee for each checked item. Your program fee covers the cost for one checked item.

Seasonal temperatures – winter and summer temperatures vary between 76-88 degrees Fahrenheit (sea breezes are the norm).

### Required Equipment List:

Snorkeling gear (snorkel, mask, fins)  
Dive booties or water shoes (needed for comfort and safety)  
Dive skin or wetsuit  
Sturdy water bottle(s) – 2L in size at least  
Backpack  
Head lamp/flashlight

### Recommended Equipment List:

0.5 or 1.0 mm Wetsuit – recommended, but not required (not having one will not impact your participation in the academic programming)  
Multi-tool knife (don't pack this item in your carry-on bag)  
Camera & spare batteries  
Write in the Rain booklet  
Sunglasses  
Beach towel  
Binoculars  
*Optional:* Sleeping bag & mat

No Goretex – doesn't work well in the tropics!
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### Clothing List:

Non-cotton field pants and shorts  
Non-cotton long-sleeved and short sleeve shirts  
One set of casual, nice clothing for outings in town  
Fleece/sweatshirt  
Lightweight waterproof jacket  
Sturdy walking shoes with ankle support  
Sandals  
Wide brimmed hat  
Swimwear  
Underwear

No Linen – although cool,  
it doesn't dry well!

### Toiletries:

1. Keep in mind the limits on liquids/gels in carry-on luggage
2. Wherever possible, please ensure that these items are biodegradable and environmentally friendly (i.e. low in nitrates and phosphate-free).

Toothbrush and toothpaste  
Insect repellent (with deet)  
Benadryl  
Hydrocortisone cream  
Sunscreen (see side note) and lip salve  
Razor blades for shaving as needed  
Shampoo & soap  
Hand sanitizer towelettes  
Moleskin for blisters  
Medicated talcum powder (for “nappy rash”)  
Contact lens solutions if needed  
\* Female participants: bring extra supply of feminine care products

There is evidence that  
sunscreen is killing reefs so  
dive skins and hats are the  
preferable tools to protect  
yourself from sun  
exposure.

### Medications:

- Bring any prescription drugs you take IN THE CONTAINER they came in with your name and the prescription on it. Be sure to have enough for the whole trip (double your usual supply).
- A supply of any over-the-counter drugs you use regularly (such as aspirin or migraine headache medications)
- If you wear contacts, bring an extra pair and/or a pair of glasses.
- The program staff will bring a first aid kit with basic medication/band aids/etc. BUT there won't be an unlimited supply. If there's something you think you will need while you are there — allergy medication, motion sickness medication, etc., bring it yourself.

- Consider bringing a multivitamin since your diet will be quite different than what you are used to.

What to Leave Behind:

- Hairdryers or other small electrical appliances (remember the voltage there is 220V so a converter will be needed for any North American appliances)
- Jewelry—if you wear jewelry, tone it down as much as possible. Anything that you love, leave at home. Plan on removing all jewelry when snorkeling or swimming.

Laundry facilities:

- There are laundry facilities in the houses.

## PROGRAM STAFF INFORMATION

The program staff will be living in the same houses as the students and will be on hand to ensure that all activities are being conducted in a suitable and safe manner. Each faculty member will be teaching different sections of the tropical ecology and sustainability course.

### **Program Director**

Tom Coote (*onsite: December 31-January 21*)

### **Faculty**

Donald McClelland (*onsite: December 31-January 15*)

Sarah Snyder (*onsite: December 31-January 21*)

Bob Schmidt (*onsite: December 31-January 15*)

Amy Smith (*onsite: December 31-January 15*)

Mike Bergman (*onsite: December 31-January 15*)

### **Dr. Thomas Coote, Program Director & Faculty**

*Environmental Studies*

BA, Bard College at Simon's Rock; MSES Bard College; PhD, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Department of Environmental Conservation)

Dr. Coote's research focuses on landscape ecology and genetics with a particular focus on aquatic ecology and molluscs. In his teaching and research, he draws from several disciplines including agroecology, environmental science, political ecology, and landscape ecology and genetics. Dr. Coote has been the recipient of the Hudson River Foundation's Polgar Fellowship as well as the New York National Sea Grant Fellowship. Before coming to Simon's Rock he spent a decade in the fish farming industry and taught at Waynesburg University and California University of Pennsylvania. He is also the director of the Berkshire Environmental Research Center, an environmental research and education program within Simon's Rock.

### **Dr. Mike Bergman, Faculty**

*Geophysics*

BA, Columbia University; PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Bergman joined the Simon's Rock faculty after a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, where he studied fluid dynamics, magnetohydrodynamics, and the generation of planetary magnetic fields. He is the recipient of fellowships from the National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA, and NATO, which sponsored his work at the University of Glasgow. His recent work involves experimental studies of the effects of magnetic fields, rotation, and fluid flow during the solidification



and deformation of ice and metals, for which he has received grants from the Research Corporation and the National Science Foundation. He was awarded the 2000 Doornbos Memorial Prize in Exeter, United Kingdom, for his research on the Earth's interior, and is the secretary of SEDI, an international association of scientists who study the Earth's deep interior. He has published papers, some with student coauthors, in *Geophysical and Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics*, *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors*, *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions*, *Nature*, *Geophysical Research Letters*, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, and *Journal of Crystal Growth*. He is the author of a chapter in the American Geophysical Union monograph *Core Dynamics, Structure, and Rotation*, and a chapter in the *Elsevier Encyclopedia of the Earth Sciences*, and has served as guest editor for *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors*. He has also written a News and Views column for *Nature*. In Spring 2013, Dr. Bergman was a visiting research scientist at the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon, France.

### **Dr. Donald McClelland, Faculty**

*Botany*

AA & BA, Bard College at Simon's Rock; PhD & MPhil, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York and The New York Botanical Garden

Dr. McClelland was The New York Botanical Garden's National Science Foundation funded Planetary Biodiversity Inventory: Solanum graduate fellow. Before returning to Simon's Rock as a faculty member, he taught at Baruch College, Lehman College, the College of Mount St. Vincent, and The New York Botanical Garden's Adult Education program and the NYBG School of Professional Horticulture. Dr. McClelland's research focuses on the taxonomy and systematics of the plant family Solanaceae, the nightshade family, and the flora of eastern North America. He has conducted botanical fieldwork in Bolivia, New Caledonia, the Philippines, throughout the eastern United States, and in Hawaii. Future research projects include conservation of *Solanum viride* (also known as the cannibals' tomato), a species endemic to Oceania, and melissopalynology of southern New England.

### **Dr. Amy Smith, Faculty**

*Biology*

### **Dr. Bob Schmidt, Faculty Emeritus**

*Ichthyology*

BS, University of Rhode Island; MS, PhD, University of Connecticut

Dr. Schmidt's specialty is ichthyology, with current interests in biogeography and the fishes of Montserrat, South America, and Hudson River fish larvae. His grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Hudson River Foundation,

among others, have enabled him to do research resulting in over 80 papers published in scientific journals including *Copeia*, *Ecology*, *Northeastern Naturalist*, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, and *Caribbean Naturalist*, and contributions to several symposia on Hudson River ecology. His publications include seven coauthored papers on Montserratian fauna. He is an associate director of Hudsonia Ltd., located at Bard College, a director of the Berkshire Environmental Research Center, Ltd. at Simon's Rock, and adjunct curator of fishes at the New York State Museum.

**Dr. Sarah Snyder, Faculty**

*Herpetology*

BS, Unity College; PhD, University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Snyder was a National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Sciences from 2013-2014 and has previously taught at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research addresses conservation concerns for sensitive reptile and amphibian populations by examining mechanistic relationships between animals and their environment. As a doctoral student, she studied the effects of wildfire on the thermal ecology of tortoises in the Mojave Desert. Her work has been presented at many national and international conferences including the World Congress of Herpetology, the Joint Meeting of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists, and annual meetings of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology and the Ecological Society of America. Dr. Snyder has been actively involved in educational outreach at the University of Nevada Museum of Natural History, Nevada Bugs & Butterflies, and the Flying Cloud Institute's Young Women in Science Program.

## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR PREPARING YOURSELF

Montserrat Tourist Board

<http://www.visitmontserrat.com/>

Government of Montserrat

<http://www.gov.ms/>

<http://www.gov.ms/a-z-government-listings/>

CDC

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/montserrat>

State Department

<http://travel.state.gov/>

Fit for Travel

<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/caribbean/montserrat.aspx>

Kew Royal Botanic Gardens

<http://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/montserrat>

Montserrat National Trust

<http://montserratnationaltrust.ms/about-us/>

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details/198131-montserrat-programme>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds

[http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p\\_p\\_spp=673516](http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p_p_spp=673516)

# SYLLABUS

## Tropical Ecology and Sustainability Studies on Montserrat—ECP 710

Summer: December 31-January 21, 2023

*This syllabus is subject to change*

**Program Director:** Thomas Coote

**Associate Faculty:** Mike Bergman, Donald McClelland, Amy Smith, Bob Schmidt, and Sarah Snyder

**Course Description** – The BCSR Signature Program in Montserrat is an opportunity for students to engage both theoretically and practically in tropical ecology, conservation biology, and island and global sustainability issues. For four weeks students reside with faculty studying the island’s ecology, its endangered and endemic species, receive training in ecological survey methods, work with various flora and fauna in the field, receive snorkeling training and conduct reef surveys, as well as participate in community service.

**Course Objectives** – The science of ecology is central to understanding the world’s environmental problems and is of paramount importance in light of climate change and the implications for the tropics. This course presents the major principles of ecology as they are applied to the tropics and exposes students to the core sustainability issues facing small island nations. Students will be introduced to the major ecological systems in Montserrat through their work in the field identifying, collecting, and assessing species assemblages across the island. Students will engage with staff from the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, the Montserrat Department of the Environment, staff from the Governor’s Office, and local middle school teachers and students learning and sharing about the island’s ecology and the culture of the island.

### **Learning Objectives and Outcomes:**

- 1) Students will gain and demonstrate a basic understanding of the theory and science underlying tropical systems through their participation in the field, assigned readings, and in the daily round table discussions.
- 2) Students will become familiar with the equipment and tools required to do field work and demonstrate their use in the field.
- 3) Students will demonstrate an understanding of water chemistry, monitoring equipment, and laboratory methodologies used in water quality analysis.
- 4) Students will learn the basics of scientific research, writing and presentation skills through their independent research, and their response journals. Each student will conduct an independent research project on the ecology of Montserrat and

document their findings with an annotated bibliography and summary of findings, and present their research to the team in Montserrat.

**Grading and Evaluation** – Because this is a field course, students will be assessed based on their participation in all activities including: field work and sampling, data collection and analysis, round table discussions, and school visits. 50% of the assessment is based on participation, 25% is based on field journals and 25% is based on their research and posters.

**Research and Presentation** – Each student will work on one of the researchers' projects and complete their own literature review on the topic they chose. This work may be on a specific component of the research or may be a related area that is approved by the researcher. Each student will conduct a literature review on the topic, complete an annotated bibliography, and write a short 1-2 page summary. This work will take place in Montserrat and be presented at the final program mini conference.

## Course schedule and outline

### Section A – Mike Bergman

- The history of Montserrat and its major ecological disturbances
- Geological context and volcanology of Soufrière Hills
- Marine and coral reef ecology
- Seafloor geography and physical oceanography
- Major marine phyla with a focus on marine invertebrates

### Section B – Tom Coote

- Introduction to island biogeography
- Freshwater mollusks: rivers as islands.
- Social response to natural disasters
- The social dimensions of maintaining ecological diversity and sustainability

### Section C – Bob Schmidt

- Island biogeography, part 2
- Life in the intertidal, estuaries, subtidal and coral reefs
- Data collection, molecular techniques, and analysis in ecological research
- Climate change on Montserrat
- Freshwater Stream Ecology: How Unusual is the Stream Fauna on Montserrat?

### Section D – Donald McClelland and Sarah Snyder

- Tropical island floristics and ecotypes
- The diversity and abundance of herpetofauna
- Legumes and symbiosis
- Trash and micro plastics
- Field Research and data analysis
- Project production and presentations

### **Readings to be completed BEFORE the trip:**

Kincaid, Jamaica. 2000. *A Small Place*. (any edition and available on Amazon)

Grotzinger JP, Jordan TH. 2014. Plate tectonics: The unifying theory. In: *Understanding Earth*. T.H. Freeman. p. 23-49.

Kricher, J. 2011. What and where are the tropics? In: Tropical Ecology. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. p. 6-37.

Lugo AE, Schmidt R, Brown S. 1981. Tropical forests in the Caribbean. *Ambio*, 10(6):318-324.

## EXAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Activity	Faculty	Excursions*
Dec 31	Arrive late		
Jan 1	Orientation & Safety Talk Intro Montserrat	All	Outing: Hilltop/ Snorkel
Jan 2	Fieldwork Orientation and Planning Session	All	Outing: Belham Valley
Jan 3	Geology: part 1	Bergman	Outing: Petroglyphs
Jan 4	Fieldwork/Movie night	All	DIP: Erupting in Murder
Jan 5	Volcanology	Bergman	Class: MVO
Jan 6	Marine Bio and Tidal pools	McMullin	Class: Rendezvous Bay
Jan 7	Plymouth	Bergman	Outing: Plymouth Tour/Farm River
Jan 8	Climate Change/Geology: part 2	Bergman	Class: Silver Hills
Jan 9	Fieldwork/Bats	All	Outing: TBD
Jan 10	Marine Life and Micro plastics	McMullin	Class: Marguerita Bay
Jan 11	Fieldwork/Sea Turtles/Movie Night	McMullin & Coote	TBD
Jan 12	Expedition (Geology: part 3)	Bergman	Outing: South End
Jan 13	Free day	McClelland	Trips to town and dinner on your own
Jan 14	Elfin Forest and Land Snails	McClelland & Coote	Outing: Katy Hill
Jan 15	Invertebrates	Schmidt & Coote	Big River

\*Class: required, Outings: optional but strongly encouraged



# MONTSERRAT PROGRAM CONTRACT

This contract will serve as the agreement between you and Bard College at Simon's Rock ("the College") that you acknowledge the specifics of the trip as outlined in the attached pages, and that you agree to uphold the College standards of conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook 2018-2019 at the college you attend (Simon's Rock or Bard College).

Please review the attached program information, complete the information requested on this form, then sign and this form, along with the Statement of Interest Form, and Acknowledgement & Release Form to the Office of Academic Affairs by January 25, 2019.

## Swimming & Snorkeling

The curriculum involves spending many hours in the ocean, either standing and walking in the surf or snorkeling on the reefs. It is expected that you will bring good fitting snorkel equipment. There is a limited amount of equipment available to borrow.

Please rate your current abilities:

Swimming:	beginner	intermediate	advanced
Snorkeling:	beginner	intermediate	advanced

While there is no expectation of students being scuba-certified and this is not part of the program curriculum, there may be an opportunity for a recreational outing if enough people are experienced and interested.

Are you scuba-certified? Circle one: Yes / No

If yes, please describe your experience:

## Dietary Information

Access to the kinds of foods you may be used to eating can be difficult on a small island. Be prepared for limited variety. Please indicate your diet preference:

Vegetarian    Vegan    Gluten-free    Lactose-intolerant

Please provide any other additional details:

**Statement of expulsion:** Students are required to maintain good social standing through the Spring 2019 semester and through the duration of the program. If the program leaders judge that it is necessary for a student to be dismissed from the program due to behavior that is incompatible with the safety and success of the program, the student will be sent home unattended at the family's expense and with no refund of program fees (the student's account will be billed).

**Please sign below indicating that you understand and agree to the above. The Parent/Guardian signature is required, regardless of the student's age, unless the student is fully responsible for the student account.**

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE**

The Bard College at Simon's Rock program on the island of Montserrat ("the Program") includes a variety of activities including ground, air, and water transportation; exploring urban and rural areas; trekking; and staying in various types of accommodations. Before a student may participate in this trip, the following form must be completed by the student and by the parent or legal guardian of any student who is under the age of 18.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have voluntarily elected to participate in the Bard College at Simon's Rock Program in Montserrat from May 19 through June 15, 2019, and I further acknowledge that I have been provided with information about the Program and that I have read and understood such information. I agree to follow all College Policies as outlined in the 2018-2019 Student Handbook.

I acknowledge that travel with this Program and participation in all aspects of the activities can involve the risk of injury and illness to myself or damage to my property. I understand that, due to the nature of international travel, such risks cannot be completely eliminated. I voluntarily accept all risk of personal injury, illness, death and damage that my property may incur resulting from my participation in this Program. In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Program I, on behalf of my family, heirs and personal representative(s), agree to assume all the risks and responsibilities of my participation in the Program, including transportation and any activities incident thereto, and I hereby release, waive, discharge, hold harmless and covenant not to sue Bard College, Bard College at Simon's Rock, their trustees, officers, agents, employees, contractors (collectively "Releasees"), with respect to any and all liability for any harm, injury, damage, cost, or expense of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to, suffering and death, or any damage that my property may incur, whether caused by the contributory negligence of the College or carelessness of the Releasees or otherwise, while participating in, or in transit to or from, the Program or any activities associated with the Program.

I understand that this Release is for the benefit of Bard College and Bard College at Simon's Rock and their affiliates, subsidiaries, agents, employees, and related entities only. Third parties, such as common carriers, hotels, or travel agencies are not released from liability for their acts.

This Release shall be interpreted under and governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS RELEASE, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS.

STUDENT/PARTICIPANT:

[Printed Name]

[Signature]

[Date]

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: (for all students under the age of 18 as of February 1, 2019)

[Printed Name]

[Signature]

[Date]