

Course Proposal (1) – 4 credits
Sustainable Community Development in Kefalonia, Greece 2007-08

Name: Wendy Walker, Assistant Professor

Department: Environmental Studies Home University: Western Washington Univ.

Title of Proposed Course: *Uncovering the Social Community* (existing program course title)

Proposed New Title or Subtitle: *Environmental Stewardship: Human Adaptations to Habitat*
or *Uncovering the Social Community: Environmental Stewardship*

Term Preference: Fall Semester 1 Spring Semester 2

Recommended Course Level: 400 (graduate credit possible)

Departments that might grant credit: Anthropology, Geography, Sociology, Political Science,
Planning, History, Environmental Science, Resource Management

Course Syllabus: *Environmental Stewardship: Human Adaptations to Habitat*

Course Description: This class will explore and analyze ways in which humans have adapted to their ecological habitats globally and on Kefalonia in the past and in the present with an emphasis on ways the practice of environmental stewardship has increased the sustainability of human cultures. Class projects will include creating educational/ interpretive materials about these subjects that can be used as ecotourism tools by local businesses, non-profits, individuals and other groups. There could be a tie to the Planning Studio class where students will create an overall matrix of needed educational and interpretive products. Students could donate interpretive media projects to the local community if appropriate.

Course Objectives: That students will be able to...

- ...research, read, discuss and write about the human dependence on and interactions with natural systems in the past and present with an emphasis on Kefalonia
- ...interview local people and groups about ecotourism needs
- ...visit, read about and interview AWISH about sustainability projects on Kefalonia
- ...create an interpretive project for tourist use: ecotourism brochure, interpretive sign, exhibit, audio tape, video, webpage focusing on humans adaptations and sustainability on Kefalonia
- ...present the projects to appropriate local community groups and potential users
- ...donate any final usable products to AWISH for distribution and use in local ecotourism

Suggested Fieldwork: Mapping and researching ecosystem patterns, human past and present uses of and adaptations to ecosystems. Creation of ecotourism maps allowing visitors to explore the island and understand it through the lens of the human species adapting to changing environments over time, including the present. Explore hiking trails and other ecotourism activities for educational potential. Do a group service project as practice for suggesting service learning as an ecotourism activity.

Instructional Methodology: Lecture, discussion, experiential education, learning community, service learning, field trips

Methods of Grading and Assignments: Written response essays to readings, natural history and class response journals, research paper, final project, community presentation

Readings: Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, W.W. Norton, New York, 1997
Walker, Wendy, *Interpretation for Conservation*, USDA Forest Service, 1990
Theodossopoulos, Dimitrios, *The Trouble with Turtles: Cultural Understandings of the Environment on a Greek Island*. New York and Oxford, 2003

Advance Readings: Orr, David, *Ecological Literacy*, SUNY press, 1991
Websites relating to tourism on Kefalonia

Proposed Weekly Class Schedule:

Week One: Program Intro, Class Intro and Site Visits, Athens and Kefalonia, Readings
Week Two: Site Visits, Assessment of Needs, Audience Analysis, Local Interviews, Readings
Week Three: Project Goals and Methodology Discussion and Selection, Service Project
Week Four: Project Planning and Set Up, Initial Stages of Work, Project Readings/Research
Week Five: Project Work
Week Six: Project Plans Due and Program-Wide Week Off for Travel
Week Seven: Project Work in Studio and Field
Week Eight: Project Work, Written and Visual Materials to Reviewers
Week Nine: Project Work, Community Presentation Planning
Week Ten: Class Practice for Community Presentation
Week Eleven: Community Presentations: Kefalonia and Athens