

Community Forestry, Gender and Sustainable Living

An Interdisciplinary Field School with the Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project, St. Ann's Trinidad & Tobago

In partnership with Bridgewater State University

Course Description: This is a service-oriented field school where students will gain skills pertaining to research in a new cultural setting and participate actively in community events. Students will develop a field work tool kit including standard qualitative research skills and applied knowledge specific to the cultural environment. These include:

Field Work Tool Kit for new cultural settings

- Developing rapport within a new cultural setting (the Fondes Amandes villagers, forestry organization and wider community);
- Develop and apply observation skills; maintain a field notebook of observations;
- Design and implement a research methodology with specific knowledge outcomes;
- Conversion of field notes into field reports;
- Design and conduct interviews with community members. Interview types include: open-ended, formal structured, life histories/personal narratives.

Specific to the cultural milieu and interdisciplinary field school focus:

- Learn about agroforestry maintenance through participation with forestry work crews;
- Participate in organizing and implementing annual community Gayap March 12, 13;
- Participate in Rastafarian and community culture;
- Examine impact and response to climate change;
- Learn forest fire control and irrigation techniques;
- Apply theory to human behavior (intersectionality, community well-being and community organizing);
- Examine structure and operation of the NGO and its interface with government agencies; participating in NGO strategizing and interaction with other NGOs/Community partners.

Readings:

Websites to read carefully about the history of the community, its partners, vision/ mission, constitution.

Fondes Amandes:

<http://facrp1.webs.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/facrp/?fref=nf>

<http://www.triniview.com/articles/fondes.html>

Environmental Partner, Sustain T&T (Director, Carver Bacchus)

<http://abetterplacefilm.com/>

<http://greenscreentt.com/>

Articles:

- 1) “Stewards of their Island: Rastafari Women’s Activism for the Forests and Waters in Trinidad and Tobago—Social Movement Perspectives.” Diana J. Fox and Jillian M. Smith, Forthcoming, May 2016, *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*.
- 2) “Agroforestry Options for Small Up-land Farms” Richard Burnett. 2006. Upland Holistic Development Project.
- 3) Additional readings will be tailored to each group’s specific research project. After the topic of the research is formulated, students are required to identify 5 scholarly articles to read related to their project and must be approved by the course instructor.

Evaluation:

- 1) Meeting prior to departure: 10%
- 2) Active, positive, thoughtful, reflective field school participation:45%
- 3) Individual research project: 45%. You will receive a handout for detailed outline of your paper when we arrive in Trinidad

Course Outline

Two meetings in February—dates, times, place to be determined

Sunday March 8: Arrival, settle in, dinner, relax

Monday, March 9, 2020

7:30-8:15 Breakfast

8:30-10:30: Introductions to the FACRP Team; presentations on FACRP modules. Context for field research

- Sustaining Community Forests
- Forests and People
- Women and Forestry
- Maintaining an Organic Nursery
- Health and Wellness in the Community; Meaningful Masculinity
- Security and Land Tenure
- Music and Culture
- Community Outreach and Partnering
- Gayap and Volunteer Blog

Snack

10:30-12:00: Uphill Tour

12:30-1:15: Lunch

1:30-4:30: Community/Village and River Tour: Mapping the watershed—do your best--followed by map workshop, drafting a community map.

Free time

6:00-7:00 dinner

Free evening

Tuesday March 10, 2020

8:30-12:00: Divide into groups and work with forestry crew (bring snacks and water)

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30-5:00: **Field Trip #1** to Institute for Marine Affairs, Chaguaramas: Climate Change, coral reef endangerment, sea level rise, marine-land interface.

Dinner: 6:00-7:00

7:30-9:00: Workshop—designing research methodology for implementation: the value and approach to gender based research; designing projects.

Potential gender-based research projects with sociological, anthropological and social work foci

- a) Percentage of adults from FA village employed by FACRP—gender breakdown and analysis;
- b) Gender role socialization in the village—exploring the impact of women’s leadership—direct or indirect--from the FACRP on childrearing practices and ideals of masculinity and femininity;
- c) Challenges and achievements of women foresters;
- d) Gender roles in Rastafari
- e) Perceptions of FACRP’s gendered leadership by community partners
- f) See Green Business point c below

Potential Bio-diversity and climate change projects—impact on FA

- a) Vegetation analysis and photo journal--biodiversity count; documentation of flora at different levels of hillside.
- b) Soil comparisons between human regenerated forests and natural regeneration
- c) Soil documentation via photo journal (arid, hard, dark fertile)
- d) Fauna documentation—indigenous knowledge, source of knowledge

Green Business Development

- a) Herb tea enterprise: types of herbs, drying, packaging, duration dates.
- b) Eco-tourism—river tours, bird watching
- c) Roles of women, girls, men, boys in eco-tourism development

Wednesday March 11, 2020

Early morning forestry crew: 7:00 (top of the ridge)/ later crew: 8:30 (bring snacks and water)

12:30-1:15: lunch

1:30-2:30: Gayap Meeting and role distribution for Friday

2:30--5:00: Finalize Research methodology, begin data collection

6:00-7:00: Dinner

7:30-9:00: Visit from “AuntieThea” Theodora Gittens-Ulerie: Folklore in Trinidad and Tobago—workshop and performance

Thursday March 12, 2020

9:00-12:00: implement research methodology: village interviews/surrounding community interviews/biodiversity of the watershed

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30-4:30: Gayap preparation—setting up OR visit to St. Francis School—students prepare class for 14-16 year old girls.

5:00—9:00: **Field Trip #3** with Sustain T&T: Evening film screening/community discussion event of “A Better Place”. Themes include: Turtle conservation, aquaponics project/climate change and resilience; Tobago marine park.

(Carry dinner to site).

Friday March 13, 2020

9-1: Gayap

1:30--**Field Trip #4**: Maracas Beach trip

Dinner—free evening

Saturday March 14, 2020

9:00-12:00—Gayap

12:30 Airport Departure