



## Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program

University of North Texas, Universidad de Magallanes & Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity

[www.chile.unt.edu](http://www.chile.unt.edu) & [www.ieb-chile.cl/ltser](http://www.ieb-chile.cl/ltser)

**Course: INTRODUCTION TO SUB-ANTARCTIC BIOCULTURAL CONSERVATION**

**Course Catalogue Information: PHIL 4053 / PHIL 6780** cross listed as **BIOL 4053 / BIOL 5053**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course will provide students with an introduction to sub-Antarctic biological and cultural diversity, as well as the approach of the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program at UNT.



Students will gain an overview of the flora, fauna, geography, climate, and ethnography of southern South America. They will also gain a conceptual framework to integrate environmental philosophy and ecological sciences, and their integration into practical and theoretical aspects of biocultural conservation, including education and ecotourism. Additionally, and as a way of comparing and contrasting with the Sub-Antarctic contents, the course will have a section on Sub-Arctic contents.

We all bring different skills and mindsets to this

course and will work as a group to broaden and integrate our approaches to biocultural conservation. This semester-long seminar-style course will have an emphasis on ethno-ornithology and ecotourism, as a way to implement biocultural conservation. The course is part of a broader International Research Experience, and a study-abroad field course, entitled Tracing Darwin's Path (TDP). Although this course is a recommended pre-requisite for the TDP field course, participation in the field components associated with the semester-long seminar course is not a requirement.

We will use various interactive features during the course, including Blackboard, videoconferences and live streaming. Course materials will be made available online through Blackboard and [www.chile.unt.edu](http://www.chile.unt.edu). Students are required to check Blackboard regularly for updates to the syllabus, announcements and access to course materials.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through readings, films, and seminars students will develop:

- ❖ Familiarity with both biological and cultural diversity.
- ❖ A basic understanding of the geography, history, culture, and ecology of the sub-Antarctic ecoregion of southern South America.
- ❖ An understanding of similarities and differences between Sub-Antarctic and Sub-Arctic ecosystems, and worldviews from indigenous people and members of other socio-cultural groups that inhabit these regions.
- ❖ A comprehension of under-appreciated biodiversity (bryophytes, lichens, and freshwater invertebrates), and traditional ecological knowledge.
- ❖ A distinctive interdisciplinary approach to biocultural conservation that integrates environmental philosophy and ecological sciences.
- ❖ Familiarity with examples of Neotropical ornithology, biotic homogenization and flagship species.
- ❖ We will focus on some key figures on biocultural diversity (e.g., Darrel Possey, Luisa Maffi), South American environmental philosophy (e.g., Leonardo Boff, Chico Mendez, Dorothy Stang), comparative environmental philosophy (e.g., Baird Callicott), environmental philosophy and education (e.g., Eugene Hargrove, Peter Feinsinger), narrative philosophy, and ethics (e.g., Alasdair MacIntyre).



Physical Address:  
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1704 West Mulberry Street  
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Course: **TRACING DARWIN'S PATH (TDP)**

Course Catalogue Information: **PHIL 4054 / 6781** cross listed as **BIOL 4054 / 5054**

Courses are open to any undergraduate or graduate level student in any discipline.

This UNT Study Abroad Course is taught as part of the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program ([www.chile.unt.edu](http://www.chile.unt.edu)) in partnership with a masters-level class in conservation at the University of Magallanes (UMAG), Chile and is also part of the Chilean Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research Network's program of field courses, coordinated by the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity (IEB, [www.ieb-chile.cl](http://www.ieb-chile.cl)). (UNT has MOUs with both UMAG and IEB).

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:



**Tracing Darwin's Path** course is a wintermester course, typically held between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup> yearly. Students will be involved in hands-on research in the course. Each year the course changes due to available collaborative faculty worldwide.

During AY2013 participating faculty expected are from UNT, CT, IA, as well as Costa Rica and Chile. Continued analysis of data for those interested.

Furthermore, this course will provide students with an interdisciplinary research, conservation and education experience at one of the most pristine wilderness areas remaining in the world. The course will explore ways of defining, studying, communicating and conserving biocultural diversity.

These goals will be achieved by exposing students to a first-hand experience using the case study of the creation and implementation of the Omora Park as a long-term ecological study site that serves to *link society and development with biodiversity, history and ecosystems* in the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve (CHBR).

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Biocultural diversity has been defined as the "diversity of life in all its manifestations —biological, cultural, and linguistic— which are interrelated within a complex socio-ecological adaptive system." Addressing modern day environmental issues requires approaches that take into account this multi-faceted meaning of diversity.

- 1) To study various ways of approximating diversity in its multiple manifestation and scales.
- 2) To observe, describe, and investigate in a philosophically comparative way and ecologically integrated way conspicuous (e.g., birds) and less conspicuous (e.g., aquatic invertebrates) groups of animals.
- 3) To utilize the Omora Ethnobotanical Park and the CHBR as concrete examples of integrating environmental ethics and ecological sciences into biocultural conservation, using the Field Environmental Philosophy approach developed by the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation program research team.



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