OSPAUSTL (OSPAUSTL)

Courses

OSPAUSTL 10. Coral Reef Ecosystems. 3 Units.
Key organisms and processes, and the complexity of coral reef ecosystems. Students explore the Great Barrier Reef from the southern end which demonstrates the physical factors that limit coral reefs, to the northern reef systems which demonstrate key aspects of these high biodiversity ecosystems. Human-related changes. Emphasis is on research experiences and development of analytical skills. Two units only counted for the Biology major.

OSPAUSTL 25. Freshwater Systems. 3 Units.
Integrated water resource management and how this applies across the globe, comparing strategies and results in the developing and more developing world. Ethics, values and politics of water and the management of extremes such as drought and flood. Ecology and hydrology in an urban context, along with important current issues such as stormwater and water sensitive urban design. Construction of a well, a water tank, and a pit latrine. Community service working with a local catchment management group on riparian and wetland restoration work. Field work complements lectures.

OSPAUSTL 30. Coastal Forest Ecosystems. 3 Units.
Prehistory of Australian rainforest and how rainforest structure and biodiversity change with altitude, latitude, and geology. Tropical coastal marine wetlands, mangrove forests, and the relationship between land- and sea-based biota. Biology and ecology of marine plants, mangroves, and tropical salt marsh. Introduction to specialized fields of marine plant biology and ecology including biogeography and evolution, aquatic plant ecophysiology, water quality and bioindicator techniques, pollution and eutrophication, and environmental control of marine plant distribution and productivity. Two units only counted for the Biology major.

OSPAUSTL 40. Australian Studies. 3 Units.
Introduction to Australian society, history, culture, politics, and identity. Social and cultural framework and working understanding of Australia in relationship to the focus on coastal environment in other program courses. Field trips.

OSPAUSTL 50. Targeted Research Project. 4 Units.
Prior to arriving in Australia, students establish a link with University of Queensland faculty to develop project ideas that combine personal interests and career goals with opportunities presented by the Australian Coastal Studies program, such as how mangrove roots find sediment rich zones of the shore, or the dynamics of ecotourism in southern and northern coastal Queensland. Project report and presentation in Australia.