

Special Topics: Studies Abroad in Fiji  
ECO 498

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Course Description

This 3 credit course will be based in both the field and in the classroom. The program will involve an 11-day field trip through Fiji. Seminars and presentations will be given on the campus of the University of the South Pacific (USP). USP is a tertiary provider with a student population of 16,000 based in central Suva.

Prerequisites

Students in good academic standing at St Bonaventure will be eligible to take the course. Students in good standing from other institutions may participate, as long as they have been accepted into the course.

Required Reading

- Baldacchino, m Godfrey (1999), "Small Business in Small Islands: A Case Study from Fiji," Journal of Small Business Management, October 1999.
- Harrison, David (2004), "Working with the Tourism Industry: A Case Study from Fiji," London Metropolitan University.
- "Hollywood Millionaires Buy Fiji Water," Australian Financial Review, Nov 29, 2004.
- Kit, Borys (2004), "Fiji Makes Filmmakers Welcome to the Jungle," The Hollywood Reporter, Aug 4, 2004.
- Lal, Brij V. (2003), "Fiji Islands: From Immigration to Emigration," The Australian National University, April 2003.
- Luzius, Michael (2004), "Fiji's Furniture and Joinery Industry: A Case Study," USPEC Working Paper 2004/4, University of the South Pacific.
- Qarase, Laisenia (2006), "Address at the Fiji Indigenous Business Council 2006 Symposium," Mar 30, 2006.
- Robertson, Andrew (2001), "Island of Intolerance?," Harvard International Review, Spring 2001.
- Sharma, K.L. (2004), "Growth Inequality and Poverty in Fiji Islands: Institutional Constraints and Issues," USPEC Working Paper 2004/10, University of the South Pacific.

From Pacific Islands Monthly

- "Tourism in the Pacific," April 2000, 17-18
- "FijShop.com Cashes in on E-Commerce Boom," February 2000, 32-33.
- "Burgernomics says Fiji, Samoa Currencies Undervalued," June 2000, 14-15.
- "New Investments Still Incoming at Denarau," January 1999, 20-21.

Essential Background: Fiji. Collection of material about the History, Culture, Geography, Government, Economy, Plant & Animal life of Fiji.

Course objectives

ECO 498 provides a study of the economic issues and policies of Fiji. We will examine issues intended to shed some light on practical and policy questions such as the following:

- How does economic growth in Fiji affect the welfare of different interest groups?
- Does the exchange rate affect the trade surplus? Investment flows in and out of Fiji?
- How does trade affect the distribution of income within Fiji?
- What is the relation, if any, amongst the exchange rate, inflation, and productivity?

This course aims to

1. Familiarise students with the important economic problems of Fiji;
2. To develop a working knowledge of Fijian economics, politics, history, life, culture, and business through field experiences, seminars, presentations, and student projects;
3. To gain an appreciation for the importance of cultural differences when operating overseas.

### Course requirements

1. Participate in all field experiences, lectures / discussions, projects, and general activities.
2. A test on course content.
3. An applied project with a research component.
4. Maintain a journal throughout the trip.

### Course grading

10 points	On-site participation
25 points	Test
15 points	Journal
15 points	Research report
35 points	Project

A	89.5 - 100 points
B	79.5 - 89.4 points
C	69.5 - 79.4 points
D	59.5 - 69.4 points
F	below 59.4 points

### On-site student participation

The ability to interact and debate in real time with others to address problems, opportunities, and issues is a very important skill. This means you must be prepared to offer your analysis and justify your reasoning on different issues being discussed about the readings and company visits. In short, your comments are crucial to the dynamics of the class. What you get out of this course will depend to a great extent on what you put into it.

Your participation will be measured based on both quantity and quality. Your participation has to be of sufficient quantity to afford a reasonable basis for assessment. However, a more important aspect of your participation is that your comments are of “high” quality and that your comments and responses trigger thoughtful responses from others.

### Test

The test will be taken on our second day in Fiji. The test will consist of a series of short answer questions and will cover material from the readings. A list of study questions will be provided when the readings are sent to you. Students will have one hour to complete the test.

### Journal

You are required to keep a detailed journal addressing the learning events of each day. We will discuss your journal entries regularly.

### Project

Students will be required to conduct an analysis of national identity in Fiji by considering the ways in which that identity is shaped by economic, political, and cultural processes. Each group will produce a one minute internet movie that incorporates its findings.

Ideas to consider:

1. Legacies of colonization
2. Contemporary processes of globalization
3. Political representation and the political process
4. Pop culture
5. Symbols of national identity and cultural identity (Fijian vs. Indo-Fijian)
6. Sports
7. Relationships with other nations, overseas experience
8. Geography/ place-based identity

Creativity will be rewarded when designing and presenting your ideas.

A final presentation will be made by each group at the end of the course. The presentation will be 10-15 minutes long. In addition, a brief summary (no longer than 2 pages) outlining your project will be handed in.

### Research Report

As part of the project, each group will be required to conduct a survey to gather information related to their project. Each group will need to determine what information they require, design a questionnaire to obtain that information, collect the data, and provide a summary report of the information acquired.

### University honor code

St. Bonaventure University (SBU) seeks to promote and ensure academic honesty and personal integrity among students and other members of the University Community. SBU considers cheating and plagiarism to be serious acts of dishonesty. All graded work must be your own individual work unless specifically stated otherwise in the course guidelines. Material quoted from any other source must be clearly acknowledged. You must not copy the work of another person (student or published work) in any form, including examinations, tests and assignments. Any person who is found to have copied someone else's work, or to have allowed their work to be copied, will receive a fail grade for that piece of assessment and may face disciplinary action which may lead to a fine, community service or exclusion from the university, or dismissal from the program.

### St. Bonaventure University

St. Bonaventure has followed the guidelines provided by the different Associations of Colleges and Schools (e.g., Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools) as well as American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). St Bonaventure University is an AACSB accredited university. Contact hours for the course are greater than 45. Assessment, grading, and course objectives are all appropriate for the course.