Workshop Syllabus

APPLYING NSEE PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL AND BEST PRACTICE:
A FIELD-BASED CAPSTONE PRACTICUM IN PROGRAM DESIGN

EEA Instructors:
Scott G. Blair, Ph.D., The EDUCATION ABROAD Network
James E. Colbert Jr., Ph.D., Lander University

Pre-requisites:
Completion of the EEA’s five foundational workshops or with permission of the instructors. This workshop runs concurrently with EEA half-day workshops during the NSEE annual conference at the Don CeSar Hotel. Participants must be able to engage in a full day of light work within southwest Florida outdoor conditions characterized by late summer heat, sun, humidity, weeds and bugs.

Description:
Through an out-of-class exploration of local flora, fauna and coastal ecology at the Fort De Soto Park along the South Florida littoral, participants directly experience how two NSEE foundational documents—the Principles of Best Practice in Experiential Education and the Guiding Principles of Ethical Practice—can be used in the design, delivery and assessment of experiential learning programs, courses and activities. Participants gain an understanding of these foundational principles through both a theoretical examination of their content and an applied field-based practicum demonstrating how such principles are implemented in practice. In accordance with these principles, and in order to appreciate and replicate the chronological and procedural steps in designing and delivering experiential programs, workshop participants will engage with course content before, during and after the actual workshop period.

The application of principles of ethical and good practice in experiential education takes place within the following contextual frameworks: countering beach erosion through sea oats plantings and related beach stabilization efforts; protecting indigenous plant life through the identification and removal of invasive non-indigenous plant life; identifying, monitoring and removal of local marine debris and coastal pollution; identifying endangered local wildlife; and exploring and deconstructing local cultural, social or demographic forces impacting local ecology.

Learning Objectives:
1. Acquire enhanced knowledge of good practice for designing, delivering and assessing experiential learning activities
2. Identify the procedural steps of building NSEE principles and ethical practice into experiential courses and programs
3. Develop attitudes, values and behavioral skills critical to designing high-impact experiential learning activities
4. Advocate for building experiential learning theory into teaching practice
5. Enhance sustainability literacy around key issues of coastal ecology, habitat preservation, sustainable development and biodiversity

Instructional Format:
The all-day workshop takes place on Monday, September 25, 2017 from 7:30 to 3:30. The workshop is comprised of pre-workshop readings and assessment surveys; group discussions; group, team and individual onsite activities; a reflection project, and a series of volunteer activities related to workshop learning objectives within Fort De Soto Park and around the Don CeSar conference hotel. Onsite volunteering activities focused on current habitat preservation issues within Fort De Soto Park constitute the core content of the workshop. Additional experiential learning activities around the Don CeSar will be assigned as independent learning. Please be advised: If you require any special accommodations or have any special learning needs, please inform the instructors at least one week before the start of the workshop.

Forms of Assessment:
The workshop facilitators will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment when evaluating the participant’s achievement of the learning objectives. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail during the workshop. For the record, these include: Sulitest Literacy Survey, Participation, Self-Assessment, Reflection Journal, and Workshop Debrief and Acknowledgement.

Required Reading:
1. Foundational NSEE documents
2. NSEE Dropbox workshop materials
3. Readings (To be assigned by thematic area of interest: forthcoming)

Required Supplies: Participants will need a field journal, writing materials, camera, and comfortable shoes.

Online Reference and Research Tools:
http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm
http://www.nsee.org/
Workshop Facilitators:

Scott G. Blair, PhD  
Director of Assessment and Sustainability  
The EDUCATION ABROAD Network  
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Based in Paris, Scott Blair has worked in education abroad for over 30 years—as university professor, onsite Academic Director, education consultant and Director of Assessment for US study abroad providers. Past Research & Scholarship Network Leader for the Teaching, Learning & Scholarship Knowledge Community of NAFSA, and member of Board of Directors at NSEE (National Society for Experiential Education), he advocates for assessing student learning outcomes in terms of climate sustainability, biodiversity and human equity. He served on the faculties of the University of New Haven, the Institut National des Sciences Politiques, the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, and the American University of Paris. He publishes research in Frontiers and is a regular speaker at educational conferences on learning outcomes and sustainable program design in education abroad. Blair holds a doctorate in history from the Sorbonne, an MA in European history from Georgetown University, and a BA in English from Miami of Ohio.

Areas of Expertise: Education abroad program design, outcomes assessment, external assessment instruments, quality improvement processes, intercultural competence assessment, sustainability literacy in education abroad, internationalization, experiential education, global learning

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Dr. James E. Colbert, Jr. holds a PhD in Chemistry with a focus on biochemistry and enzymology from Georgia Institute of Technology and a BS in Chemistry from Wofford College. Dr. Colbert has 26 years of higher education teaching and administrative experience. He has served as Science Department Chair at two previous institutions, and now as Experience Your Education (EYE) Program Director, and Associate Provost at Lander University. Throughout his career he developed skills in assessment and evaluation of student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness. As Director of the EYE Program at Lander University, Dr. Colbert manages an experiential education program employing best practices in experiential education to design, deliver, and evaluate a variety of experiential learning activities across the university curriculum and designed to fulfill requirements for a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for the 2007 decennial reaffirmation of SACSCOC accreditation. In this role he has presented workshops on the EYE Program at Lander University and at regional and national conferences, including NSEE. Lander University’s EYE Program was selected for the Experiential Education Program of the Year Award by the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) in 2010. Dr. Colbert currently serves as immediate Past President of the Board of Directors and teaches the Assessment 101 workshop in the Experiential Education Academy (EEA) of the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE).

Areas of Expertise: Throughout his career, Dr. Colbert has mentored students in a variety of field-based experiential learning activities focused on coastal ecology and environmental science examining issues of biodiversity and environmental quality in a coastal setting. At Lander University, he teaches a biochemistry course for science majors and freshman chemistry courses for pre-nursing students. His current research interests include biochemistry, enzymology, gold bioaccumulation, natural product analysis, environmental analysis, and bioremediation.