Bimini Dolphin Field Course

Summer 2015

**Location**
Bimini, Bahamas

**Dates**
July 5-18

**Credits Offered**
Undergraduates – PSYCH 195.59 3 credits
Graduate students
Graduate - PSYCH 717.51 3 credits
(CUNY tuition is NOT included in the program fee)

**Application Deadline**
March 20, 2015

**Financial Aid**
TAP, Pell, Student Loans

**Program Fee**
$2,225.00 (estimate) includes housing, 3 meals/day, snacks, drinks, boat trips, snorkel gear rental and international health insurance. **AIRFARE is NOT included in the program fee.**
(All students are responsible for arriving at their study abroad location by the first day of the program; this may mean flying the day before).

**Payment Schedule**
$350.00 Application Fee & Deposit due with application materials
$1,875.00 Program Fee Balance due April 27, 2015
All payments must be made with certified checks or money orders. NO CASH, PERSONAL CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS.

**Program Description:**
This field course provides students with a unique opportunity to gain research experience in the field by participating in a study of the vocalizations and behavior of wild dolphins. The course has two components: 1) a one-day lecture-workshop held at Hunter College in May prior to the field course, and 2) participation in a two-week field program in the summer at the Bahamas field site.

The Bahamian dolphin populations are very much acclimated to human beings, allowing for the unique opportunity to observe these animals in their natural environment. Students and volunteers who join our team during our weekly research trips will assist the researchers in studying the underwater and surface interactions of wild dolphins - this includes assisting with photographing and identifying individual dolphins and recording their behavior. Observations are made underwater while snorkeling, and on the water’s surface from a research boat.

Students will take part in onboard ship observations and may (if desired) take part in underwater observations. Students who feel comfortable with photo ID may also assist in taking underwater photo ID pictures. Above water data collection includes recording environmental data, recording details of sightings, and recording behavioral observations. Additional activities include matching photos of dolphins seen to the photo ID catalogue in order to identify the dolphins, and being ‘on watch’ to look for approaching dolphin groups.
**Daily Schedule:** a typical day out at the research site will include a morning or evening lecture, morning photo ID work and data entry, and an afternoon boat trip. Weather permitting, we will have 10 boat trips during the field course. We will have additional time on one or two boat trips to snorkel at a beautiful local snorkeling site.

Trips will be led by CUNY Ph.D. candidate Daisy Kaplan and Dr. Diana Reiss, Professor, Department of Psychology, Hunter College and The Animal Behavior and Comparative Cognition Program, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

**Prerequisites:**
- 3.0 GPA
- Must know how to swim and snorkel
- Undergraduate students: PSYCH 100, Hunter MA students need the approval of Dr. Chris Braun, ABC MA concentration coordinator, Non-matriculated students need the approval of Dr. Diana Reiss

**Application Requirements:** In addition to completing the study abroad application forms, those wishing to apply must complete the following requirements:

- One letter of recommendation from a Hunter College faculty member who has worked with or taught the student within the last 2 years. This letter must attest to the ability of the applicant to work well as a team member and to follow instructions. Due to the nature of this course and that fact that students are in the water, the student must be able to obey authority immediately (faculty or the boat staff) in order to ensure the safety and research experience for all.

- Swim test - this requires swimming two laps in the Hunter pool (two laps means swimming back and forth the length of the pool twice).

- Interview and approval from the faculty member(s) teaching the course.

**Academic Inquiries**
Daisy Kaplan
jka0018@hunter.cuny.edu

**Administrative Inquiries**
Office of Education Abroad
E1447, Mon – Fri 9:30 am - 5:30pm Phone: (212) 772-4983
Fax: (212) 772-5005
edabroad@hunter.cuny.edu

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Costs of Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Fee</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 2,225.00 (estimate)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 780.00 (undergrad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 1,215.00 (graduate)</td>
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<td><strong>Not included in program fee (estimates):</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
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<td>$ 600.00</td>
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<td>Ground Transportation</td>
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<td>$ 15.00</td>
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<td>Gratuity</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 3,750.00 per session (undergrad)</td>
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<td>$ 4,185.00 per session (graduate)</td>
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