

# OFF-CAMPUS STUDY - FALL 2022

## COLGATE IN SOUTH AFRICA



**This year's theme: Biogeography in the Anthropocene**

**Director:**

Michael Loranty,  
Department of Geography

**Tentative Program Dates:**

Mid-July to November, 2022

**Learn about the 2022-23 Colgate Study Groups and Talk With Faculty Directors at the Study Group Fair at the Hall of Presidents on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 4:00–5:00:** <https://www.colgate.edu/academics/off-campus-study/campus-opportunities/virtual-study-group-fair>

**For more information about the program:**

Please contact Prof. Loranty at [mloranty@colgate.edu](mailto:mloranty@colgate.edu)

**Information Sessions will be held on:**

Thursday, October 14 at 11:30am in 101 McGregory Hall and  
Wednesday, October 20 at 4:15pm in 101 McGregory Hall

## Colgate University's

South Africa Study Group, located at the University of Cape Town (UCT), in one of Africa's global cities. It is one of the top research and academic universities in the world. At the same time, they become immersed in the city, the Western Cape region, and the country of South Africa. There are multiple excursions, both within and beyond the city, which reinforce the biogeography theme of the study group. They allow students to experience first hand the country's cultural and natural heritage biomes.

*Courses taken on this study group satisfy the Core Global Engagements requirement.*



The South Africa Study Group is open to all Colgate students, regardless of department or program affiliation, up to 18 students, who will be able to take two upper-level electives in their discipline and two required courses that uses Cape Town as our laboratory. All classes are in English.

**Goals:**

- [1] To take courses within a broad range of disciplines at a world class research and teaching university
- [2] To ground students in South Africa's social and environmental context, and challenge them to grapple with historical layers of inclusion and exclusion as well as vulnerability to environmental hazards
- [3] To understand democratic transitions, race politics, economic liberalization, and environmental change
- [4] To meet people from around the world, ask deep questions about other cultures, and seek answers to those questions

The South Africa study group's general theme of biogeography will be explored in an interdisciplinary way, accessible to students whether their interests lie in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences.

## Description of the Courses in the Program

In addition to two upper-level electives from UCT's course catalogue, students are required to enroll in GEOG 336, taught by Prof. Loranty, and a Colgate-listed course, ALST 250, taught by Tammy Wilks from UCT's Centre for African Studies.

GEOG 336 (*Biogeography*) assumes no prior knowledge of geography or environmental studies. Focuses on the factors that influence plant and animal distributions at scales ranging from population to biome. To set the stage for discussing the geography of life, students first examine the earth's physical setting. This leads to consideration of the fundamental processes determining plant and animal distributions. The interactions among these processes are also examined, thereby introducing the concept of the ecosystem. The functions of an ecosystem are discussed with focuses on energy and matter flow, population dynamics, succession, and disturbance. The culmination of these processes is reflected in broad-scale geographic patterns. Thus, the characteristics of the major biomes are examined. Finally, because humans and the environment are inextricably linked, students explore several impacts humans have on the landscape, including fragmentation, extinction, and species introductions.

ALST 250 (*Representations of Africa*) critiques the ways in which "Africa" has been constructed as an object of Western knowledge. It interrogates how Africa and Africans have been portrayed to outsiders as well as the socio-political ramifications of such portrayals. Drawing on the social sciences, humanities, and creative arts, the course explores images of slavery, travel writing and tourism, visual arts, human rights discourse, media portrayals, international aid and development, and "voluntourism".

## Prerequisites

Students from any area of study are welcome to participate, and all current sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply. The director will interview the applicants. Preference is given to those who have completed the requisite introductory sequences for their major prior to participating, and who have some intermediate or advanced elective experience. No foreign language skills are required.

## Living Arrangements

Students will reside in the CampusKey Student Living residence near UCT. The modern facility includes a gym, laundry, and shared kitchens to prepare meals. In addition, there are many inexpensive dining options nearby and on campus. Downtown Cape Town is easily reached via UCT's

shuttle known as the Jammie, which is free to you as an enrolled UCT student.

## Safety and Security

Cape Town is considered a medium risk destination. Petty theft is the most common crime. Female students may experience verbal sexual harassment. Director's rules for your safety will be explained during pre-departure meetings. Some rules, such as drug use, are subject to a zero-tolerance behavior policy. Colgate's Code of Conduct applies during your semester abroad in Cape Town.

## Costs in Cape Town:

Students will be billed Colgate tuition and the cost of their Cape Town housing plus accommodations on overnight excursions. Students will be responsible for their airfare, student visa, and food. For details of student expenses on this exchange program, please see the student cost estimate sheet on the Off-Campus Study website.

## Passports and Visas:

You must confirm that your passport is valid through August 2023. All students participating on the Fall 2022 South Africa Study Group will be required to obtain a student visa. With participation on this study group comes the responsibility of understanding and complying with South African visa requirements. All students must also be travel to the South African consulate in person to obtain the visa. All US citizens must obtain an FBI report, and must apply for the report soon after the start of the Spring 2022 semester. If you will not be traveling on a U.S. passport it is imperative that you contact an adviser in Off-Campus Study and International Student Services, 101 McGregory, to learn as much as you can about the visa requirements. For some students there are significant requirements to be met that take time, advance planning, and incur costs.

## Calendar and Deadline:

The fall semester at UCT begins in mid-July and goes until late November. Colgate students will be on-campus in South Africa until their exams are finished. The study group application will open on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, and will close on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. All applications are on the Colgate University Off-Campus Study websites and are submitted online at [offcampusstudy.colgate.edu](http://offcampusstudy.colgate.edu). Interviews will be arranged by email, and the faculty director will announce admissions decisions in January 2022.