

# UF IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Three faculty in the Department of Geography took 9 UF Undergraduate students on a study abroad program centered in and around Kruger National Park in South Africa. The study abroad course addressed the importance of conservation within the African context, via hands on engagement with parks in southern Africa. Each place on earth is distinguished by a unique mix of physical environment, natural resources, cultural practices, and socioeconomic and political systems. Parks are embedded within this larger matrix and are an interesting challenge for managers and conservations alike. The time in South Africa

emphasized practical field skills, empirical research and cross-cultural learning, giving our UF students a significant advantage in the job market and head start should they enter graduate programs. The final challenge in the course involved developing their own reserve design and the entire experience was very hands on. The course goals are fourfold: REALIZE the complexities and challenges of conservation within the African context. GAIN practical field skills conducting empirical research. INCREASE cross-cultural understanding. EXPERIENCE some of the most amazing landscapes and protected areas left in the world today.

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