THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Honors College

Honors Integrated Minor in Ecology and Legacy

East Africa

OVERVIEW

Honors Integrated Minors provide a structured pathway to completing your Honors Degree, built around a common theme and shared with a cohort of your peers. Students from all majors may earn the academic minor by taking six required courses in the humanities, social sciences, arts, and natural sciences over several consecutive semesters. The Honors Integrated Minor offers unique field work and service opportunities connected to coursework. Students who complete the Minor will complete the majority of their Honors Degree requirements.

The Honors Ecology and Legacy Integrated Minor focuses on the important topic of human relationships to their ecosystems, and how these complicated entanglements manifest across place, population and time. In the face of urgent climate disaster, there is an urgent need for students who have multidisciplinary training and an integrated understanding of ecosystem functioning and health, and who can think critically about how ecology is intimately connected to our social and cultural systems and institutions (e.g., economics, politics, history, religion). The training and experience offered through the Honors Ecology and Legacy Integrated Minor will prepare students to make unique professional contributions in multiple fields. Students pursuing a career in the sciences will be equipped with a more humanistic perspective on ecology and environmental issues, while students pursuing career paths outside of science will be able to engage with issues of ecology in their discipline and/or professional area, and will bring critical and systems-based thinking to their broader work.

The Honors Ecology and Legacy Integrated Minor includes three distinct tracks: Patagonia (including a 6-week summer experience in Argentina, Montana, and the Great Basin), East Africa (including a 6-week summer experience in Kenya), and Utah.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The broad goal of the Honors Ecology and Legacy Integrated Minor is to develop interdisciplinary, systems-level thinking around issues of ecology, environment, and human/non-human relationships in order to understand and address modern environmental issues and the way those overlap with social issues, and to work towards imagining societies where humans are more deeply integrated with the natural environment. Students will take courses in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences to develop a deep and nuanced understanding of the historical, social and environmental dimensions of ecology across place and over time. Students who complete the minor will be able to:

1) Apply historical texts to analyze cultural concepts and values related to environment, ecosystems, the human place in the natural world, and ecological thinking across and within societies.

2) Demonstrate an ability to apply natural selection and other basic evolutionary and ecological principals to understand natural processes through a materialistic-scientific worldview. Use data to describe ecosystem functioning and ecological relationships, both locally and globally.

3) Explain how ecosystem functioning is influenced by both proximate and distal determinants across the social ecological framework.

4) Propose interdisciplinary solutions for addressing ecological problems.

5) Exhibit interpersonal communication skills that demonstrate respect for other perspectives and cultures.

6) Engage in self-contextualization to understanding of self in relation to ecological, social, global interactions.

CURRICULUM FOR THE EAST AFRICA TRACK

Curriculum overview for students admitted in Fall 2022.

Spring 2023				
HONOR 2109	**IT: IT through an Ecological Lens**	TBD	HF	3.0

Summer 2023*				
HONOR 2700	**Comparative Ecology**	Dr. Goller	SF/IR	3.0
HONOR 3602	**IT: Africa**	TBD	HF/IR	3.0
HONOR 4473	**Art and Environment**	TBD	FF	3.0

Fall 2023				
HONOR 3200	**Honors Writing**	Dr. Gills	WR/CW	3.0

FREE SEMESTER				
_____	**Pre-approved elective (from any department) of student's choosing**	_____		3.0

* Students will participate in a 6-week summer intensive at the Mpala Research Centre and in Nairobi, Kenya. The curriculum will include three courses and field work.