Global Forest Sustainability

with Dr. Tom Hammett

Do you want to travel the world and learn about interesting cultures? Would you like to learn about products we use daily including rubber, cooking oil, spices, medicines, foods, and cosmetics? Explore current issues and challenges including forest sustainability, the impacts of climate variability, water access, gender equity, and the causes of deforestation. In a world changed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to learn more about the sources and sustainability of our materials, foods, and medicines.

Global Forest Sustainability is an introduction to the world’s forests and their importance. The course is suitable for all students and majors and has no prerequisites. Students will learn about the functions of forests, how they provide materials and services, and their role in global sustainability. Students will get hands-on experience and build the skills and confidence needed for decision-making and careers.

Knowing the world’s forests and what they provide is critical in making purchasing choices and career decisions. Often, they have significant strategic, economic, and environmental consequences. In this course, we will meet experts and discuss with them important issues such as carbon sequestration in Central America, climate change resilience in Asia, deforestation in Africa, gender equity and forests in South America, and forest and water supplies in the Middle East.

Understanding the importance of the world’s forests, and the products and services they provide, will help us ensure that these forests and their resources are available for future generations.

Work at your own pace, and benefit from zoom-based conversations with experts, professors, and classmates.

Along the trail, we will relate all we learn to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This three-credit course is open to all majors, is listed in CLE: Area 7 (Critical Issues in a Global Context), and is included in several minors.

See the world. Learn about forests and the roles they play in our daily lives. You will enjoy the journey!