

SEA SEMESTER:

Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems

An Environmental Studies, Social Science and Humanities-Intensive Semester offered by Sea Education Association

Like all of SEA's programs, this semester combines academic work at SEA's campus in Woods Hole on Cape Cod with practical application and original research at sea.



Tahiti, Bora Bora, Nuku Hiva, Moorea

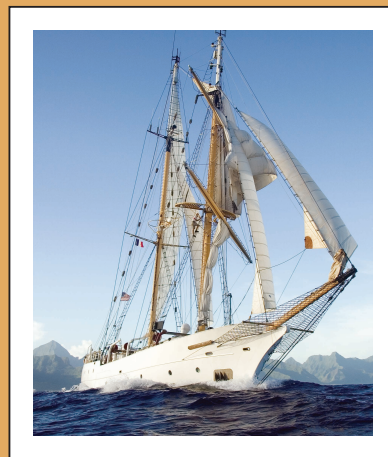
The very names evoke romantic images of sandy beaches, lush palm trees, and exotic native people. Europeans arrived in these islands, now known as French Polynesia, 250 years ago and described a paradise of abundance.

Polynesian people reached this remote region of the South Pacific in voyaging canoes as early as three thousand years ago. They developed cultural practices and technologies determined by the unique environmental challenges of each island. When the two groups met, European diseases devastated Polynesian people and Western colonialism and commercial interests forced the abandonment of traditional practices that had developed in fragile, limited ecosystems. Today the islands of French Polynesia are thought by many to be so dependent on European colonizers that they cannot sustain themselves without foreign financial support. At the same time, a movement for independence looks to fashion a sustainable future that acknowledges the persistence of Polynesian traditional culture. What does the future hold for these islands? Can we discover answers to this question that will apply to other regions of the globe?



Study Sustainability in French Polynesia

Begin in Woods Hole, MA with an introduction to the interdisciplinary program, then sign on as crew of the *Robert C. Seamans* in Tahiti. Travel through the Tuamotu and Marquesa islands to meet local people, visit historical, cultural, and agricultural sites, and use state-of-the-art shipboard laboratory and research facilities to investigate the complex issues of environmental sustainability and cultural continuity.



Faculty

Dr. Keitapu Maamaatuaiahutapu, Dr. Mary Malloy, Capt. Steve Tarrant, Dr. Jan Witting

About Sea Education Association (SEA)

For over 35 years and more than 1,000,000 nautical miles, SEA has educated students about the world's oceans through a fully accredited study abroad program that combines perspectives from the sciences, humanities, social sciences, and public policy. SEA offers extraordinary opportunities for interdisciplinary project-based learning on shore and the immediate application of that knowledge at sea.

Courses and Credit Structure

Maritime History and Culture, 4 credits; Marine Environmental History, 4 credits; Nautical Science, 3 credits; Oceanography, 3 credits; Maritime Studies, 3 credits.

For more information:

800-552-3633 x 770 admission@sea.edu www.sea.edu