

SEE-U Jordan

Amman, Dana, Wadi Rum,
Mujib, Madaba, & Ajloun

6 credits, 5 weeks

Summer 2019: July 1—August 1 (tentative)

Instructor: Dr. Jenna Lawrence,
Columbia University



Dana



Petra



Tala Bay, Aqaba

Through a partnership between EICES and The Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, the SEEU Jordan course provides students with a unique opportunity to study ecosystems, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability in Jordan. Participants in the course learn about marine, desert, and forest ecosystems while traveling the length of the entire country, from Amman in the north to Aqaba in the south.

In Jordan, you will explore pristine coral reefs while snorkeling and study marine ecology at the Royal Diving Club, a haven for international scientists studying sub-tropical ecosystems. These reefs contain over 350 species of bony fish, rays, hard and soft corals, and turtles. Students will also explore deserts in Dana, visit forests in Ajloun, and float in the Dead Sea to develop an in-depth understanding of ecology in Jordan. Extended stays at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature's reserves in Dana, the Wadi Mujib canyon, and Ajloun expose students to the country's varied ecosystems and biodiversity. Cultural highlights during the program include a trip to Petra, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Drawing on current issues in Jordanian resource management, the SEE-U Jordan course explores the interface between science and sustainable development. Students will learn about ecology, evolutionary biology, environmental science, taxonomy, and experimental design. Guest lecturers from government ministries and nonprofit organizations provide students with a broad understanding of current issues in sustainable development in Jordan such as freshwater resource management, desertification, biodiversity conservation, and deforestation. The centerpiece of the course is an individual research project through which students learn how to plan, execute, and present on ecological research.