Hello class!

I hope everyone is super excited about this program! Class officially starts tomorrow. We’ve been working hard on LOTS of logistics to make this an incredible experience. It won’t be long until we are on Andros! This email includes lots of updates and useful information, so please read carefully.

**Class:** Remember to check the course website for class information and updates throughout the summer. There’s been some issues with the server running the site (university IT is changing lots of security settings), and if this interrupts access to the site in the future, we will transition to a Moodle site. If so, we will let you know as soon as it happens. In the meantime, be sure to check out the syllabus (attached) for the current schedule. Pay special attention to the due dates. The course website will be updated tomorrow with new information about the team projects and readings.

**General Trip Itinerary:** We should meet up at the airport in Nassau on June 12th, and then we’ll spend the next 2 weeks together. For the first ~5 days on Andros, we will all be together visiting lots of different places throughout the island, learning all sorts of field methods, having lectures in the evening about the core concepts and background for the activities we will do the following day, and having some time for teams to work on their project methods and proposal revisions. We will then spend most of the rest of the trip split up into two teams, conducting different projects. They’re both going to be great, and you will get an opportunity to swap projects for a day if you want. We will also typically all have breakfast and dinner together each day, and will have some whole-group activities at least a couple more times during the latter part of the trip. We also have two guests visiting with us and giving guest lectures toward the end of the trip (US professors that study different things in The Bahamas), and should also soon confirm a visit from the Executive Director of BAMSI (The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute). So, it will be a busy and exciting time!

**What to Bring:** The suggested packing list is attached. We plan to go out on a boat at least once (perhaps several times), and thus be sure to bring motion sickness medicine if you are prone to sea sickness. (It’s rarely THAT choppy, and we try to avoid rough weather, but better to be safe than sorry.) While standard summer wear will generally suffice for much of the trip (e.g. it will be warm, and swimming will occur MANY days), you will want clothing for rain/storms and hiking. We recommend that you don’t ignore our suggestions about long-sleeved shirt, lightweight pants, rain jacket, hat, and shoes for which you can walk on uneven terrain and get wet and dirty.

For your luggage, be aware of the restrictions for the LeAir flight. Because this flight may be pretty full (still 4 empty seats right now) and we will have lots of luggage (we will be bringing several bags of course materials), the baggage allowance may be pretty tight. It is not uncommon for about 1-3 checked bags to get left behind in Nassau for a day or two. So, try to bring essentials for a couple days in a small carry on just in case. You get 1 checked bag up to 40 lbs on the LeAir flight (62 inches, L+W+H), and are charged $1 for every pound over 40 lbs (up to 60 lbs). Please try to pack relatively light if possible to help accommodate space for the bags full of course materials that we’ll have to convince them to allow us to bring.
**Travel Entry Requirements**: Be sure to keep up with these regulations. This site should be up to date and has the link for the Bahamas Travel Health Visa: [https://www.bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://www.bahamas.com/travelupdates). While things could still change prior to the trip, here’s useful information for the current situation: You should apply for the Travel Health Visa 3 days before travel once in possession of your Covid Test Results. You can take a Rapid Antigen Test for this if you’re vaccinated. To do this, they recommend using something like this: [https://www.emed.com/airline-travel](https://www.emed.com/airline-travel). You can take a test on a video chat and they provide a formal report of the result that you can submit as proof of a negative result. You need a negative test result taken no more than 3 days (72 hours) prior to the date of arrival. Be extra careful during the weeks prior to the trip to avoid getting Covid then! Alternatively, you can also provide documentation of recent recovery from Covid-19. Info from The Bahamas below:

**Bahamas Travel Health Visa**: Applications generally take up to 24-48 hours to process, after which each traveler will receive a confirmation regarding their application’s approval via email provided. However, at times the approval process may take longer. There is an expedite option that can be accessed only by contacting the visa department direct. Travel Compliance Unit
Tel. +1 (242) 604-7200 | +1(242) 502-0829 (BAH #)
Tel. +1 (786) 471-5898 (USA #)
Email: healthvisa@bahamas.com

**Persons who have a recent positive COVID test**: Submit a copy of their positive RT-PCR test taken within 10-90 days prior to their travel date, as well as a clearance letter from a licensed physician to bthv@bahamas.gov.bs (Note: Clearance letter must include header/logo of medical facility and physician signature and stamp if available. Letter should confirm that they have completed at least 2 weeks of quarantine, are asymptomatic and fit for travel. Handwritten letters are not acceptable.) - Include travel date and island destination in their email. - Documents are reviewed by the health authorities and a decision is made within 24-48 hours. - If approved, a travel exemption letter will be provided to them via email with further instructions.

When entering The Bahamas, you can fill out the Customs forms that you are a tourist and you are staying at J&J Ocean View Motel in Staniard Creek, Andros Island.

When re-entering the US, you will need proof of a negative COVID-19 test no more than 1 day before departure. We will schedule these tests on Andros the day before departure. If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead travel with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before the flight’s departure from a foreign country and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).

Looking forward to a great summer!

Dr. L and Dr. P

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