

Summer Course 2008

E50.2032 -- Field Studies in Ecology (3 graduate credits)

Dates and locations:

- There will be 2 pre-trip classes at NYU on May 20 5:30-7:30 p.m. and May 27th 2:00-4:00 p.m. Both classes will be held in Room 820 in the Silver Building.
- The week-long field experience is May 31 to June 6, at Black Rock Forest in Cornwall, NY.

Field Studies in Ecology at the Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, New York is a concentrated summer field course in ecology with a focus on field botany, forest biology, plant-environment interrelationships, and sampling techniques.



Black Rock Forest lies in an ecotonal region between the oak forests to the south and the hemlock-white pine-northern hardwoods forests to the north. Topographical variation and disturbance history have generated a mosaic of plant assemblages that include mature upland oak forest, hemlock ravine, pitch pine-scrub oak ridge, shrub thicket, bog, and post-fire successional communities. Over 117 plant families are represented.

Students become familiar with the flora and fauna of the Hudson Highlands as they study the major natural habitats within the forest. Field exercises include plant community sampling; paleoecological analysis of sediment cores; characterization of shrub communities using diagnostic keys; and surveys of birds, insects, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates. Our class is scheduled during peak bird migration and flowering. Readings from Science, Nature, Ecology and other relevant literature are carefully coordinated with our field studies.

Students travel from NYC to Garrison, NY via Metro-North railroad. Some students opt to bring their own cars. Students are housed at the Black Rock Forest Lodge. Tuition plus \$300 fee for room, meals and supplies. Enrollment limited. Permission required. For more information contact Dr. Terryanne Maenza-Gmelch at tm15@nyu.edu