This is a 6 credit course, involving a small interdisciplinary group of students that work together on a particular project. The projects are chosen from a list compiled by project organizers or decided by the project group themselves. These projects are all based in Barbados and students have the opportunity to work with local professionals on specific subjects of their choosing. Students dedicate Mondays and Tuesdays all summer long towards their respective projects. Below are examples of projects that took place during BITS 2014.

All photos taken by students of the BITS 2014 program.
Written by: Vijayeta Patel and Dr. Danielle Donnelly
Agricultural Tourism in Barbados

By: Alexander Cooper, Aaron Friedland, Marie-Sophie Iredale & Sharon Lopez,

Mentored by: Dr. Francis Chandler & Dr. Danielle Donnelly

A group of 4 students developed a tour of a few agricultural spots in Barbados. They were also able to create a cooking video featuring a local chef in Barbados, preparing a meal using local ingredients. This involved visiting prospective sites, interacting with growers, pitching the idea to Ministry of Tourism staff (money was awarded for signage). Plant Barbados Promoting Linkages in Agriculture Nutrition and Tourism
Ministry of Agriculture - Greenland Livestock Research Station

By: Marie-Pier Bolduc, Laura Lasry & Vijayeta Patel

Mentored by: Mr. John Vaughan, Christian Molgat, Dr. Arif Mustafa

A group of 3 students worked alongside Mr. John Vaughan to examine the effects of alternative feed substitution on the growth of blackbelly sheep in Barbados. Their work involved weighing the sheep every Monday to track their growth and assembling a by-product feed using local ingredients. Their feed trial lasted 8 weeks. This was a very hands-on project and contributed to the students research skills.
Agricultural Research in Barbados

By: Miriam Belhadfa, Joelle Dahm and Aurelie Hawes and (McGill University)

Mentored by: James Sealy and Dr. Danielle Donnelly

A group of 3 students worked at the NCC to study different methods of propagation of *Ficus alii*. Their study took place at the Soil Conservation unit in the Scotland District. They spent Mondays propagating the plants while Tuesdays were dedicated to touring the island to gather knowledge about the different plants that are present around Barbados. This group also prepared a walking tour of Bridgetown Barbados.
Engineering Research in Barbados
Naturally Ventilated Augment Cooling Greenhouse

By: Dillion Fields, Zainab Iqbal & Ryan Knight

Mentored by: Dr. Mark Lefsrud & Lucas McCartney

The students, with the help of their mentors, retrofitted a commercial greenhouse and tested this natural ventilation augmented cooling greenhouse, or NVAC greenhouse. This greenhouse modification was originally set up and tested at McGill. To further the research, it was necessary to try it out in the tropics. The new system worked – it reduced the overall temperature by several degree.
A Density Data Survey of Lionfish in Barbados

By: Alexander Wieb, Aaron Friedland, Manuela Vernaza (McGill) and LouraceTrebble (University of the West Indies)

Mentored by: Simron Browne and others in Barbados

This project examined the density of lionfish populations around the island, particularly in the west coast reefs. It was conducted in order to further the data of lionfish populations in Barbados since these fish are an invasive species causing havoc to coastal marine areas. The students would scuba dive in different locations in Barbados and collect data on lionfish. They also prepared a video on how to cook lionfish, to show that this fish can be used as a food source in Barbados.
Waste Management in Barbados

By: Kesner Dabady, Priyanka Kapadia and Twisha Kini

Mentored by: Danielle Donnelly

This group researched different ways that waste is managed in Barbados. Students investigated how various items are handled or recycled in Barbados, including household waste (recyclables are removed), construction waste, green waste (mulching and composting are done), used appliances, e-waste, old batteries, used tires, bottles, cans, and other items. They interacted with the Sanitation Authority and wrote a report. Priyanka will return to Barbados to work with the Sanitation group during winter, 2015.