

L391: Costa Rica Ecology Experience, 3 cr. Summer I 2013
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Potential Dates: 5/12/12 – 6/3/12

These dates are subject to change based upon availability of facilities.

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Office hours are currently by appointment.

Please contact me via the IUPUI email addresses provides and NOT via Oncourse email. Email sent through Oncourse may not be read and will not receive a reply. In addition, email that is not sent from an IUPUI or an IU account if often filtered and redirected to the junk folder.

Students will be exposed to a variety of ecological experiences not available in the continental United States. These include tropical mountain forests, both wet and dry, coastal marine environments, tropical agricultural areas, and the lowlands. Many of these experiences will also incorporate local culture or include relationships between the ecology of the area and the local culture. Student Learning Objectives for this course encompass Student Learning Objectives 2 through 7 of the Department of Biology.

Course

Objectives:

- 1) develop observational skills
- 2) investigate relationships between organisms and their environment
- 3) apply knowledge gained during the Study Abroad course and knowledge from previous courses in assessments of the ecosystems visited
- 4) write scientific proposals for research projects applicable to the ecosystems visited
- 5) investigate the impact of tourism on the ecology of Costa Rica
- 6) investigate the impact of agriculture on the ecology of Costa Rica
- 7) develop a personal perspective of the environment and culture

The course objectives fit within the department of Biology Student Learning Outcomes 2 through 7

http://www.iupui.edu/~bulletin/iupui/2010-2012/schools/purdue-science/undergraduate/student_learning_outcomes/biology.shtml

As well as IUPUI Principles of Undergraduate Learning 1 through 6, <http://www.iport.iupui.edu/selfstudy/tl/puls/>

Textbooks:

Required reading: IUPUI Pre-Departure Handbook for Study Abroad Students on IUPUI Programs. This handbook may be downloaded at: <http://abroad.iupui.edu/student/pre-departure-handbook.pdf>

Two books will be required for students: a general Costa Rica travel guide of your choice, such as Lonely Planet or Frommers and one field guide specific for flora or fauna. Students will also be provided with some reading materials and a list of books recommended for reading. A variety of basic guides to the flora and fauna of Costa Rica will be provided for use while on the trip. Students may wish to purchase other books to prepare for the trip and to assist in writing their research proposals.

Language Requirement:

Fluency in Spanish is not required. Students are encouraged to purchase a Spanish phrase book or language learning tool to develop some basic conversational Spanish.

Physical Requirements:

Students are required to be able to navigate independently. Students must be able to navigate stairs and uneven terrain, tolerate heights, hot and humid weather conditions, potential lack of air conditioning, and insects. Some hikes will be strenuous. Students must also be able to adapt to the cultural change they will experience in a foreign country.

Additional Items:

Students may wish to purchase an International Student Identification Card. You may [apply online](#) for an [ISIC card](#) on the ISIC website <http://www.isic.org/>. It gives a variety of discounts including museum and travel tickets worldwide. It includes additional international travel insurance. This ID card system is administered by STA Travel.

To get a card, bring the following with you:

1. Completed application (available at the office)
2. Proof of current semester registration - You can use a print out from [OneStart](#)
3. Photo ID with name and birthdate (i.e., driver's license)
4. 1 passport photo
5. Payment of USD \$22 (2012 fee) —

Students participating in IUPUI overseas study programs are required to have international health insurance coverage, which includes both medical evacuation and repatriation benefits. Students on IUPUI programs will purchase insurance through the IU student international health plan, which costs approximately \$30.00/month. Information regarding travel insurance is available at <http://abroad.iupui.edu/student/>

Students will be provided with cards containing emergency contact information for the local equivalent of 911, the U.S. embassy or consulate, and the IUPUI Study Abroad Office.

Assignments and Grading:

Students will be graded based upon reflective activities, research proposals, and overall participation.

Reflective activities:

These will include two components, discussion at daily meetings and the development and publishing of an individual student ePortfolio.

Daily meetings will allow participants to discuss their experiences. These meetings will address the impact of the experiences on the participants, application of information to the ecological experiences, question and answer sessions with local experts, and discussions regarding the development of student research proposals. Participation in these discussions will have an impact on the overall participation grade.

Individual student journals:

Depending upon the availability of internet access, students will be asked to begin creation of their ePortfolios on site or the student will be asked to maintain a journal to collect information to be used in the e Portfolio. Individual student ePortfolios are to include: daily entries that address the scientific information gathered from the day's activities, statements reflecting personal impressions and impacts of the ecological and cultural experiences, and identification and description of ideas for their formal scientific research proposal. The ePortfolio or journal entries will be read by the program director after visiting each ecological area. These will be assessed for content in order to provide feedback regarding research proposals. Students will receive a grade for their ePortfolio.

Research proposal:

Students will write scientific research proposals for the ecological areas investigated. These proposals will include the background information, design, and justification for the particular projects. The justification will include ecological relevance, social and cultural acceptability, and potential local and global impacts.

Assessment will be based upon the use of information provided in meetings prior to the trip and information obtained during the trip experiences in the research proposal. Students will receive a grade for their research proposal.

Student participation:

Participation assessment would include such things as participation in discussions, courteous behavior, adherence to rules of travel, respecting local culture, and being helpful to other participants. This particular assessment will occur continuously throughout the trip. Students will be given feedback during the trip to allow them to improve their behavior. I do not expect to utilize this behavioral assessment in the determination of the course grade, but I reserve the right to do so in extreme cases. Dismissal from the trip due to inappropriate behavior will be considered failure of the course.

Location ePortfolio entries @ 50 pts each	500 pts
Completed ePortfolio including overall reflection	200 pts
Two research proposals @ 250 pts each	500 pts
<u>Participation points</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
Total	1300 pts

Grades: Grades will be calculated as a percentage of total points possible (earned score divided by points possible). Your minimum course grade will be determined as follows:

90%-100% =A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C. 60-69%=D, less than 60%=F.

General Class Policies:

This course will follow the guidelines set by the Overseas Study Program: <http://overseas.iu.edu>

As well as the policies set by IUPUI: http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html

Expectations of participants: Students who choose not to follow course policies, IUPUI policies, or IU Study Abroad policies will be sent home at their own expense. Dismissal from the course will result in a grade of F for the course. In study abroad, as in other settings, participants can have a major impact on their own health and safety while abroad through the decisions they make before and during the program and by their day-to-day choices and behaviors. Participants in this program are expected to follow program director instructions and recommendations that ensure safety. Certain behavior that is deemed detrimental to the integrity of the program, potentially dangerous, and/or illegal in Costa Rica and the United States of America will result in expulsion from the program at the discretion of the program director. The use of drugs is illegal in Costa Rica, and if you are found asking for, buying, and/or using drugs, you will be expelled from the program. While adults aged 18 and over are able to drink alcohol, any drinking that endangers your personal safety and/or the safety of fellow program participants and presents a negative image of IUPUI to the community, will also result in program termination.

Participants are expected to:

1. Participate fully in all pre-departure meetings and orientations, both course specific and a Study Abroad pre-departure meetings, and all orientations on site in Costa Rica. Students will be expected to read and carefully consider all information provided by Overseas Study that relates to safety and health conditions in host countries.
2. When applying for or accepting a place in a program, consider carefully their health and other personal circumstances, and assume responsibility for them after acceptance.
3. Make available to Overseas Study accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other personal data that are necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience.
4. Obtain and maintain supplementary health insurance coverage and liability insurance, if required, and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
5. Inform parents/guardians/families, and any others who may need to know, about their participation in the study abroad program, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed on an ongoing basis.
6. Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of academic and ethical conduct, and emergency procedures of the program, and obey host country laws.
7. Once on site, be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and decisions. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the program staff or other appropriate individuals.
8. Become familiar with the procedures for obtaining health and law enforcement services in the host country.
9. Avoid substance abuse of all kinds.
10. Follow the program policies for keeping program staff informed of their whereabouts and well-being, especially when travelling away from the program site.
11. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
12. Accept responsibility for their own decisions and actions.

These guidelines were adapted from the NAFSA Interorganizational Task Force on Safety and Responsibility (May 2002), as approved by Indiana University's Overseas Study Advisory Council.

Academic Integrity: All students must respect and abide by the academic regulations of both IU, and IUPUI, and the local host institutions. Any acts of academic misconduct, including cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference, violation of course rules or facilitating academic dishonesty, will be adjudicated by local academic officials and then be referred to the judicial process on the student's home campus.

Electronic devices: Laptop computers may be used for note taking and cameras and video recorders may be used with the permission of the program director and the tour guides. No other electronic devices will be allowed during class activities including tours. **The use of cell phones, MP3 players, electronic games, etc. as well as texting will be prohibited during any scheduled course activities.** Students will receive a warning for their first infraction regarding the misuse of electronic devices. Additional infractions will result in the loss of participation points.

Withdrawal from the course:

Withdrawal before the program begins

If you withdraw from the program after you have registered or have paid the fees but before the program begins, Overseas Study will remove the charges or refund all of the fees paid to IU except the nonrefundable prepayment(s) and any other fees that are non-recoverable at the time of withdrawal. Do not cancel or change your registration.

Withdrawal after the program begins

If you withdraw from the program after it begins, you must send a formal statement to Overseas Study that indicates the last day you attended classes and explains the arrangements you have made with the onsite administration for finalizing participation. Overseas Study will consider a partial refund of fees only 1) if you become seriously ill or 2) if an emergency requires you to return to the U.S. In these cases, the amount of the refund will be determined individually on the basis of costs recoverable by Overseas Study at the time of withdrawal. Do not cancel or change your registration.

Program cancellation

In the unlikely event that IU cancels a program, Overseas Study will determine refunds based on each individual case. Factors include the timing of the cancellation, number of students affected, housing situation, negotiation of recoverable housing costs and other program-related fees. The amount of credit already completed and the opportunities for students to complete courses through alternative arrangements will also be considered.

<http://overseas.iu.edu/policies/withdrawal.shtml>

The School of Science policy states that a Grade of Incomplete (I) can only be given when **all** of the following conditions have been met: 1) a student has completed 75% of the course work, 2) the student is earning a passing grade, and 3) the student has a “hardship that would render it unjust to hold the student to the time limits previously fixed for the completion of the work”. (see IUPUI Academic Calendar at <http://registrar.iupui.edu/accal.html>).

Course Schedule

Pre-trip orientation sessions: Dates to be determined

Prior to attending the following course specific orientation sessions, students will be required to attend one of the pre-departure meetings organized by the Office of International Study. These meetings are held 1-2 times per month <http://abroad.iupui.edu/>. Students may attend any one of the meetings that fits into their schedule. Students from other IU campuses may attend the course specific pre-departure sessions via Skype or some other available technical link.

Course Specific Orientation Sessions

Session 1: Logistics

- Where we are going?
- Where we are staying?
- What to bring?
- What you need to do to start preparing for the trip?
 - Passports
 - Medical Checkups, vaccinations, preventative medications
 - Health Insurance
 - Onsite Program Costs
- Rules (Code of Conduct)
- Expectations (Academic Framework)
- Language and language preparation

Session 2: Ecology and Scientific Background

- Ecological zones (Dry Montane, Atlantic Lowlands, Cloud Forests, etc.)
- Flora and Fauna of Costa Rica
- Agriculture and environmental impacts

Session 3: Culture

- History of Costa Rica
- People of Costa Rica
- Attire in Costa Rica
- Food and Accommodations in Costa Rica
- Safety
- Colones and the US Dollar

Session 4: Wrap-Up and Additional Questions

- Go through final checklists
- Questions
- Final Details

Trip Destinations:

Note: The schedule is an estimate. Dates may be changed based upon availability of facilities. The actual dates for each location will be provided to students during the pre-trip orientation, Session 1.

5/12: Arrive San Jose: Travel day

5/12 - 5/13: Turrialba: 1 day, 2 nights

Our visit to Turrialba will allow us organize ourselves after a long flight from the US to Costa Rica as well as to begin our acclimation to Costa Rican culture. The most important archeological site in Costa Rica is located nearby in the Guayabo National Monument. In addition, Catie, home to Mesoamerican agri-environmental programs, has an outstanding botanical garden that will be used as an introduction to some of the plants of Costa Rica.

Activities: Guayabo National Monument
 Catie botanical gardens

5/14: Travel day

5/14 - 5/15: Cahuita: 1 day, 2 nights

Cahuita provides a unique opportunity to experience the more Caribbean culture of Costa Rica. The Cahuita National Park provides an opportunity to explore a coastal beach with a unique combination of wildlife. The Sloth Sanctuary is actively involved in both sloth research and rescue and public education.

Activities: Hiking in the Cahuita National Park
The Sloth Sanctuary

5/16: Travel day

5/16 – 5/18: Tortuguero: 2 days, 3 nights

Tortuguero is a small village located on the north Caribbean Coast. This village is isolated from the mainland and only accessible by boat travel. The culture of Tortuguero is a combination of typical Tico and Afro-Caribbean culture. It is home to Tortuguero National Park. This marshy land of canals and lagoons, where sea meets fresh water, has become a fundamental location for turtle nesting. The village is also home to the Turtle Museum at the international nonprofit Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC). Along with the turtles, Tortuguero has a vast expanse of flora and fauna.

Activities: Sea Turtle Conservancy Museum
Turtle nesting night watch program
Jungle tour
Canoe tour of the canal

5/19: Travel Day

5/19 – 5/25: Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí: 6 days, 7 nights

Tirimibina is located in Sarapiquí in northern Costa Rica's mid-elevation on the Sarapiquí River. Tirimibina is a nonprofit group that focuses on conservation, education, and ecological research.

Current research at Tirimibina includes efforts to identify the diversity of butterflies and identify the host plants of both larval and adult butterflies in the area. Tropical agriculture is prevalent in the Sarapiquí region. Students will have the opportunity to experience small-scale cooperative farming and commercial production.

Activities: Finca Corsinca organic pineapple farm
Mi Cafetia coffee co-op
Cocoa tour and history
Bat walk
Night walk
Research experiences

5/26: Travel day

5/26 – 5/27: La Fortuna: 1 day, 2 nights

Alternative energy in the form of hydroelectric dams and wind turbines are also present in the area.

La Fortuna is home to the Arenal Volcano. This area is one of the best in Costa Rica to view a volcanic ecosystem. When visiting the area, unique wildlife can be viewed in the Arenal National Park, which also allows visitors to hike into an extinct caldera. The La Fortuna area has various sources of alternative energy, including hydroelectric dams and wind turbines.

Activities: Hiking in Arenal National Park
Hiking in an extinct caldera

5/28: Travel day

5/28 – 5/30: Monteverde: 2 days, 3 nights

Located in the Tilaran Mountain range, Monteverde and Santa Elena, are parks that contain a plethora of flora found only in the cloud forests of Costa Rica. This area is one of the first areas of ecosystem preservation in Costa Rica and leads the country in development of ecotourism. Examples of the effect of clear cutting for agriculture exist side by side with ecosystem preservation.

Activities: Canopy and ground tours of the world renowned Cost Rican cloud forest.
Ranaria tour

5/31: Travel Day

5/31 – 6/1: Rincon de la Vieja: 1 day, 2 nights

Rincon de la Vieja National Park is located in the Guanacaste province on the northwest Pacific slopes of the country. The park contains many attractions associated with the Cordillera de Guanacaste, including the Volcan Rincon de la Vieja, fumaroles, and boiling mud pots. This region of Costa Rica is home to tropical dry forests, and provides a great contrast to the Caribbean lowlands and central cloud forests.

Activities: Hiking in Rincon de la Vieja National Park

6/2: Travel to San Jose: 1 night

6/3: Return to Indianapolis

DRAFT

Unfair Student Practices: Cheating and Plagiarism

Don't do it – it's not fair to me, other students, or you!

The following is an excerpt from: The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. Copyright 1998 The Trustees of Indiana University. The entire Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.life.iupui.edu/help/code.asp>

IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct

Part 3: Student Misconduct

Preamble: Indiana University, like all academic institutions, exists for the advancement of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the promotion of the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. Students are expected to exercise their freedom to learn with responsibility and to respect the general conditions which maintain such freedom. The university has developed the following general regulations concerning student conduct which safeguard the right of every individual student to exercise fully the freedom to learn without interference.

Part 3: Section A

Academic Misconduct

The university may discipline a student for academic misconduct, which is defined as any activity which tends to undermine the academic integrity of the institution. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Cheating: A student must not use or attempt to use unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. A student must not use external assistance on any "in-class" or "take-home" examination, unless the program director specifically has authorized external assistance. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of tutors, books, notes, and calculators.
 - b. A student must not use another person as a substitute in the taking of an examination or quiz.
 - c. A student must not steal examinations or other course materials.
 - d. A student must not allow others to conduct research or to prepare work for him or her without advance authorization from the program director to whom the work is being submitted. Under this prohibition, a student must not make any unauthorized use of materials obtained from commercial term paper companies or from files of papers prepared by other persons.
 - e. A student must not collaborate with other persons on a particular project and submit a copy of a written report which is represented explicitly or implicitly as the student's individual work.
 - f. A student must not use any unauthorized assistance in a laboratory, at a computer terminal, or on field work.
 - g. A student must not submit substantial portions of the same academic work for credit or honors more than once without permission of the program director to whom the work is being submitted.
 - h. A student must not alter a grade or score in any way.
2. Fabrication: A student must not falsify or invent any information or data in an academic exercise including, but not limited to, records or reports, laboratory results, and citations to the sources of information.
3. Plagiarism: A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following:
 - a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
 - b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
 - c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
 - d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.
4. Interference:
 - a. A student must not steal, change, destroy, or impede another student's work. Impeding another student's work includes, but is not limited to, the theft, defacement, or mutilation of resources so as to deprive others of the information they contain.
 - b. A student must not give or offer a bribe, promise favors, or make threats with the intention of affecting a grade or the evaluation of academic performance.
5. Violation of Course Rules: A student must not violate course rules as contained in a course syllabus which are rationally related to the content of the course or to the enhancement of the learning process in the course.

6. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: A student must not intentionally or knowingly help or attempt to help another student to commit an act of academic misconduct.

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Code of Conduct Statement

I understand that academic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (<http://www.life.iupui.edu/help/code.asp>). I also understand that the penalties for violation of the Code of Conduct are severe. These penalties may include but are not limited to:

- (a) The student may be given a lower grade than the student would otherwise have received for any assignment, course work, examination, or paper involved in the act of misconduct.
- (b) The student may be given a failing grade for any assignment, course work, examination, or paper involved in the act of misconduct.
- (c) The student may be required to repeat or resubmit any assignment, course work, examination, or paper involved in the act of misconduct.
- (d) The student may be required to complete some additional assignment, course work, examination, or paper as a substitute for any assignment, course work, examination, or paper involved in the act of misconduct.
- (e) The student may be required to withdraw from the course with an appropriate grade of W or F, in the faculty member's discretion.
- (f) Disciplinary probation for a specified period of time;
- (g) Suspension from the university for a specified period of time; or
- (h) Expulsion from the University

Student Participation Statement

As a participant in K395, you agree to abide by the following Expectation of Participants. Deviation from this may result in your ineligibility to continue in the program, disciplinary action from the University and/or other state and local authorities as deemed appropriate.

Participants are expected to:

1. Participate fully in all orientations before departure and on site, and read and carefully consider all information provided by Overseas Study that relates to safety and health conditions in host countries.
2. When applying for or accepting a place in a program, consider carefully their health and other personal circumstances, and assume responsibility for them after acceptance.
3. Make available to Overseas Study accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other personal data that are necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience.
4. Obtain and maintain supplementary health insurance coverage and liability insurance, if required, and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
5. Inform parents/guardians/families, and any others who may need to know, about their participation in the study abroad program, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed on an ongoing basis.
6. Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of academic and ethical conduct, and emergency procedures of the program, and obey host country laws.
7. Once on site, be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and decisions. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the program staff or other appropriate individuals.
8. Become familiar with the procedures for obtaining health and law enforcement services in the host country.
9. Avoid substance abuse of all kinds.
10. Follow the program policies for keeping program staff informed of their whereabouts and well-being, especially when travelling away from the program site.
11. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
12. Accept responsibility for their own decisions and actions.

I have read and understand the excerpt from the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Part 3: Student Misconduct). I have read and understand the expectations of participants and agree to abide by them.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed: _____

Syllabus Statement

I have read and understand the syllabus.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed: _____

Permission Agreement

I give my program director, Dr. Pat Clark, and the Biology Department at IUPUI

_____ permission to use my assignment(s) for grade calibration purposes and as a model for writing. My name may be used.

_____ permission to use my assignment(s) for grade calibration purposes and as a model for writing. My name may not be used.

_____ I do not give my program director, Pat Clark, and the Biology Department at IUPUI permission to use my assignment(s) for any purpose other than grading.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed: _____