

Costa Rica - Environmental Science and Ethics

May 20 –May 30, 2017, 6 credits (Summer 2017)

The Country:

Beautiful Costa Rica provides a stunning location for studying environmental science and ethics. This tropical country with micro-regions from coastal wetlands to high cloud forests is home to a gentle and gracious people, as well as one of the most biologically intact and extensive rainforests in the world.

The Experience:

Together we will discover the natural wonders, rich cultural history, and complex moral and geopolitical relations between the Costa Ricans and those to whom they supply fruits, coffee and Intel microchips. Our home base, **Selva Bananito Lodge** sits on the edge of Costa Rica's 2.5 million acre rainforest. This lodge, outfitted with 15 cottages, was named one of the top 10 ecotourism operations in the world by Outside Magazine.

The Courses:

ENV-115: Environmental Science and **PHI-160: Environmental Ethics**: Students enroll in two academic courses at Kirkwood that can apply to general education requirements. These courses consist of online assignments and scheduled group meetings with instructors, both prior to and after the in-country experience.

Environmental Ethics: uses ethical theory and field experiences in Costa Rica to explore how we should live in order to minimize the harm industrial consumer societies do to the ecosystems on which all life depends. Points of focus include environmental justice, sustainable food production, water quality, conservation of species and climate change.

Environmental Science: section will emphasize the integration of major environmental topics with field experiences in Costa Rica. These include tropical ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, land utilization and agricultural concerns, water quality and man's interaction with the environment.

Program Note: Students must be able to walk four to five miles daily.



Faculty Contacts:

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"Studying abroad in Costa Rica was the opportunity of a lifetime. The people you meet will become your friends for life, and you will want to go back."

-Kirkwood student, 2015

Estimated Program Fee: \$3,400

\$1,000 Global Advantage Scholarship available!

Includes:

Airfare
Housing
Most Meals
Health Insurance
Many Cultural
Excursions
In-Country Transit

Does not include:

Tuition – 6 summer credits
Passport Fee
Personal Expenses

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Tentative Program Itinerary:

(Class meetings begin March 22, see website for more information)

- **May 20:** Depart Cedar Rapids for San Jose; Overnight stay at hotel near the university
- **May 21:** Travel to Caribbean lowlands and Pacuare Nature Reserve; lecture on leatherback turtle conservation
- **May 22:** Activities at Pacuare: two nights of beach patrols for turtle conservation; canal boat tour for bird watching; nature hike in rain forest (may visit rare Agami heron rookery)
- **May 23:** Visit city of Limón; interactive tours of water treatment facility and banana plantation in Bananito River valley, Arrive at Selva Bananito Lodge (SBL)
- **May 23-28:** Activities at SBL: rainforest hike with zip line to platform in canopy; river hike with waterfall rappel; optional rainforest platform overnight stay for jaguar conservation project; horseback riding; tree climbing and planting; lecture/demonstrations on watershed management, biological diversity, climate change, taxonomy, etc.; service learning activity at local school and farm
- **May 28:** Travel to Cahuita National Park for coral reef snorkeling, rainforest hike; Overnight stay at Suizo Loco
- **May 29:** Travel to San Jose, visiting Sibú Chocolate on the way; Overnight stay at hotel near the university
- **May 30:** Depart San Jose for home



Info Sessions: Iowa City: Tuesday, October 18, 11:15 am - Room 204
Cedar Rapids: Friday, November 11, 1:00 pm - Linn Hall 1126

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