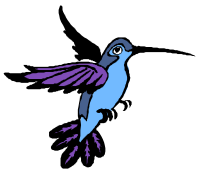
COSTA RICA WINTERIM



TROPICAL ECOLOGY

December 26, 2008 – January 14, 2009

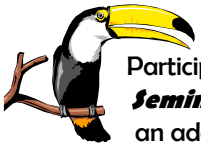
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Program Highlights

- Experience the complexity and beauty of some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world. Explore rain forests, cloud forests, active volcanoes, estuaries, mangrove swamps, coral reefs, beaches, and dry tropical forests.
- Observe the fauna, flora, and magnificent scenery of this small but diverse country. See several hundred species of birds including quetzals and macaws; also leatherback turtles, howler monkeys, crocodiles, coatis, sloths and maybe even a jaguarundi.
- Study the Costa Rican model for managing natural resources in a tropical country.
- Investigate ecological issues including sustainable development and ecotourism strategies and challenges.
- Experience and enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Costa Rica -- and its traditions of democracy, peace and hospitality.

Cost

$3,950-4350 (tentative cost with 25 students) This includes airfare (Chicago-San Jose-Chicago), lectures, accommodation, most meals, in country transportation, UW-System health/travel insurance and 3 credits Wisconsin undergraduate tuition; approx. $80 surcharge for Minnesota residents (with approved reciprocity) **and only a $250 surcharge for non-residents**.



Credits

Participants enroll for three credits of ***Natural Resources 479/679: International Environmental Studies Seminar***, with a credit or audit option (same charge for all). **No prerequisites.** Graduate credits can be arranged at an additional cost.

lodging and Travel Information

Although most overnight lodging will be in hotels and ecotourist resorts, the group will camp in participant's tents for 3 nights, and spend one night with a host family in a small town or village. Participants should be prepared to travel and live closely with a group of 25 other students (of all ages), adjust to a busy pace, be flexible, and enjoy lots of wonderful experiences.

Participants will travel in Costa Rica by bus and boat. Most of the national parks and biological reserves are best viewed by foot on hiking trails. The trails on this trip vary in length from less than a kilometer to 12 kilometers. Some of the trails are hilly, muddy and/or rocky. It is also likely that it will be necessary to wade in water to board boats. It is recommended that participants make an effort to be in reasonably good physical condition prior to departure for Costa Rica.

Additional Information

Bobbi Kubish, CNR International Programs Coordinator, Room 174 College of Natural Resources,
Tel #: (715) 346-3831, Email: bkubish@uwsp.edu

Sponsored by: *International Programs Office*, Room 108 Collins Classroom Center
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Tel#: (715) 346-2717, Fax# (715) 346-3591, Email: intlprog@uwsp.edu, Web: www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad

COSTA RICA WINTERIM

Application

Request an application from **Bobbi Kubish, CNR Room 174** or the **International Programs Office, CCC Room 108**. Return completed applications to International Programs with a $250 (nonrefundable) deposit.

> **Limited enrollment to 25 students – Application deadline: June 1 – apply early as this program fills fast!** Late applications can be considered only if there is room. Check with the International Programs Office regarding available positions.

Withdrawal

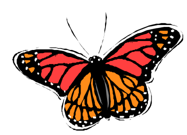
Up to ten weeks before the start of the program, all fees except the initial deposit may be refunded for withdrawal. After that time, airline and housing cancellation charges may be assessed. If the program would be canceled, all fees will be refunded. Because exchange rates and airline prices fluctuate, International Programs reserves the right to cancel, surcharge, or to alter the program.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Tentative Locations, Parks, and Activities*

Leaders include CNR Faculty and Costa Rican Instructors/Naturalists

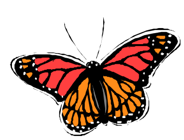
- Orientation to Costa Rican culture and ecosystems
- Travel by bus through Braulio Carillo National Park
- Night hikes in a variety of ecosystems
- Coffee and banana plantation visits
- Tour La Tirimbina and La Salva preserves – lowland rain forests - Whitewater raft trip on Rio Sarapiqui
- Welcome party and homestay in Venecia
- Tabacon Hot Springs and Arenal Volcano National Park
- Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
- Santa Elena attractions including: Butterfly Garden, Cloud Forest Canopy Skywalk, Orchid Garden, Frog Pond, and Sky Trek
- Camp at Santa Rosa National Park-tropical dry forest. Tour of La Casona historical site
- Hike into Naranjo Beach (12 km). Beach and Mangrove Ecology
- Night watch for sea turtles
- Carara National Park tour – transition northern dry and southern wet forests

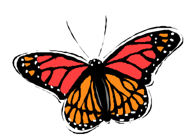


- Boat to Drake's Bay. Sea kayak mangroves and explore Corcovado National Park
- Visit Isla del Cano: snorkeling, reef ecology, archeology
- Visit Chirripo/Savegre region – higher elevation forests
- Free time in San Jose: museums, markets, shopping

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STEVENS POINT

*Tentative locations, parks and activities – final details are currently being arranged. Most sites will be visited. ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~





Revised: 01/28/2008