Costa Rica: Winter Term 2017-2018

Jan 7 – Jan 18

Open to all majors

PLS 252 Costa Rica: Politics, Economy and Society

(3 credits)

This course will also count toward the International Studies Minor or Major

Six nights at Samara beach and a three-night field trip to Montverde and Rincon de Vieja volcanic area. Samara is home to the Intercultura Language School where you will have the opportunity to learn some Spanish in very small classes (4-6). We will supplement classes with daily one-hour group meetings for lecture and discussion. Classes are in the morning or afternoon which leaves time for extra activities and playing in the surf. While it is a course for credit and not a vacation, there are a lot of fun extra activities. In Samara, in addition to hanging out on the beach, you will have opportunities to partake in horseback riding, kayaking, snorkeling, surfing and cooking lessons. Samara is a small town but has numerous nice restaurants, shops and a vibrant nightlife.

Homestays: In Samara students will stay with Costa Rican families. This is a great opportunity to see how Costa Ricans live and eat. Host families will provide breakfast and dinner. In reality, the host family experience will be your most valuable learning experience.
• Montverde is home to the largest cloud forest in Latin America. It is one of the three types of forests along with the rain forest and the dry forest (Samara). In addition to discussing the intricate park system and eco-tourism you will also have the opportunity to have a guided tour of the cloud forest, visit a coffee/sugar/chocolate farm and zip line through the trees. Hopefully we will also be able to take a night hike in the forest where one sees more wildlife than during the day. In Rincon de Vieja we will stay at the Buena Vista lodge – noted for its eco-practices, hot springs and sunsets. In Monteverde and Rincon de Vieja we will stay in a hotel/hostel.
Who is this class for?

- There is something for all majors
- Those who wish to learn about a different culture and challenge their intellectual capacity
- Students who want to learn some Spanish
- People who like to walk and like adventure
- People who get along well with others
- People who like to have a fun time

Who is the class Not For?

- Those who do not like the outdoors
- People who do not like learning languages
- People who just want to party
- People who are intolerant of other cultures
Program Costs are as follows:
1370 for lodging, ground transportation, extra activities, some meals, Spanish instruction
+ 600 estimated cost of airfare
= 1970 approximate total program costs

In addition you will need to pay tuition and fees (in-state about $1000 for winter term)

Instructor:

The course is taught by Dr. Niel Brasher who is a professor in the Political Science Department and Dr. Sally Brasher who teaches History and Women Studies at Shepherd University in West Virginia. Together they have taught over 25 study abroad programs and have taken students to fifteen different countries. This is the fifth annual trip to Costa Rica. The last four years have been great successes. To apply for the program go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/costarica2017-18.

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Note: All pictures were taken by me and I am not very good at it – the place is scenic!