

## Course Schedule

This course will meet weekly on Tuesdays on campus from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the spring 2008 semester as well as in Costa Rica from March 8-16.

The instructors will schedule a meeting in fall 2007 in order to discuss the logistics, equipment, immunizations and code of conduct for the travel seminar.

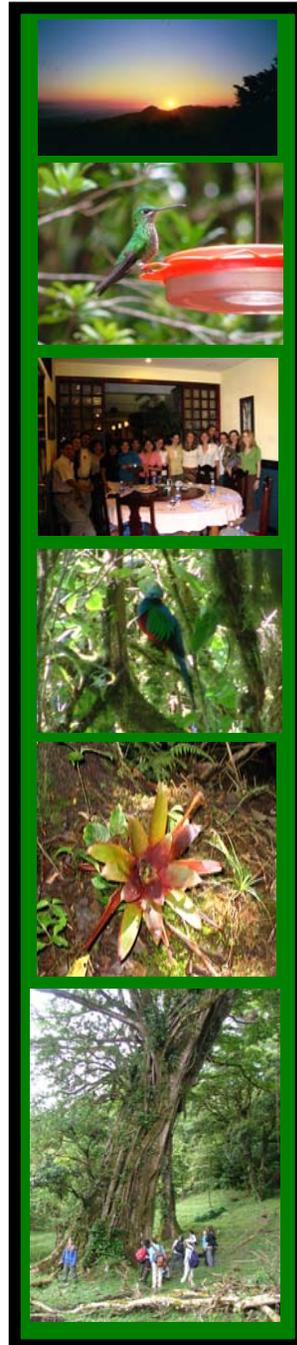
## Preliminary Travel Schedule

Subject to change

- March 8:** Flight: Albany, New York, to San José, Costa Rica. Transport to Monteverde. Orientation. Settle into Los Llanos Field station (<http://www.mvinstitute.org/newsite/llanos/lodging.html>.)
- March 9:** Quaker Meeting in Monteverde or bird walk. Sack lunch at Quaker meeting house. Walk to Hummingbird gallery. Slide show. Orientation walk through woods and pastures with Martha Campbell. Talk on history of landscape and people followed by slideshow at her home. Evening lecture: Environmental History of Monteverde by Instituto Monteverde staff.
- March 10:** Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve ALL DAY HIKE. Field observations for altitudinal transect. Dinner at Monteverde Institute. Evening Lecture: Global warming and amphibian extinctions by Dr. Alan Pounds.
- March 11:** Children's Rainforest/Bajo del Tigre. Hike and field observations for altitudinal transect in Bajo del Tigre. Santa Helena; Orchid garden. In Monteverde: tour cheese factory, visit CASEM, a Coffee Cooperative. Evening lecture: Introduction to Bats by Dr. Richard La Val with guided walk through "The Bat Jungle."
- March 12:** Butterfly Garden with Presentation and Tour Santa Elena Reserve. Hike from Santa Helena reserve to San Gerardo Field station accompanied by Mark Wainwright. Evening lecture is an orientation by Mark Wainwright. Accommodations in San Gerardo Field Station ([http://www.acmcr.org/biological\\_stations.htm](http://www.acmcr.org/biological_stations.htm).)
- March 13:** Field orientation walk. Field problems. Night hike.
- March 14:** Finish field problems. Work on field notebooks and explore. Hike to Sana Helena Reserve. Lecture: Tropical birds and the Bellbird conservation project by Deb Hamilton. Transport to Ranario to observe frogs by daylight and at dusk. Pizza Dinner!
- March 15:** Finca la Bella Cooperative Farm and Ecobambo paper tour. Lecture on fair trade coffee. Transport to San José. Farewell Dinner.

**March 16:** Lecture: Fundación Neotropical.

**Return flight to Albany.**



Skidmore College

## Tropical Field Ecology



Monteverde, Costa Rica

March 8-16 2008

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### FACULTY

**PROFESSOR MONICA RAVERET RICHTER**  
([mrichter@skidmore.edu](mailto:mrichter@skidmore.edu))

**PROFESSOR CHRISTINA GRASSI**  
([cgrassi@skidmore.edu](mailto:cgrassi@skidmore.edu))

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## Tropical Field Ecology Costa Rica

**TROPICAL FIELD ECOLOGY** is the sister course for BI 325 Tropical Ecology, a 3-credit lecture and discussion-based course. Both courses are taught in spring 2008. Students in TX 301 Tropical Field Ecology meet weekly throughout the semester for a seminar and travel to Costa Rica for field studies from March 8-16 2008.

Prerequisites for both courses are either BI 106 or ES 105, and any two 200-level biology courses. Tropical Field Ecology students must be concurrently enrolled in Tropical Ecology.

TX 301 Tropical Field Ecology (2 credits) consists of an on-campus weekly seminar and field studies in Costa Rica.

BI 325 Tropical Ecology (3 Credits) is an on-campus lecture and discussion-based course.

## Why Costa Rica?

Costa Rica occupies just 0.03% of the Earth's land surface but contains more than 4% of the planet's biodiversity. The country's climate, varied topography, location between two continents and often enlightened ecological policies have all contributed to the generation and persistence of its incredible species richness.

Monteverde, our base in Costa Rica, is bordered by three cloud forest preserves that include a mountain top and its windward Atlantic and leeward Pacific slopes. The pronounced temperature and moisture gradients on these slopes produce varied habitats that are home to over 450 species of orchid and more than half of Costa Rica's 850 bird species.

Monteverde is faced with rapid development, in large part because of these preserves. During our visit, working with local residents, researchers and staff from the Monteverde Institute, we will study tropical communities and the organisms that inhabit them, and investigate possibilities for a sustainable future.

Our in-country logistics and program have been arranged in collaboration with the Monteverde Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to peace, justice, knowledge, and the vision of a sustainable future; proceeds from the course support the Institute's conservation and community programs.

### Tropical Field Ecology in Costa Rica with Skidmore Faculty

For information on cost and the application process, contact Marie Alice Arnold in OCSE at 580-5355. For information on program content and academic requirements contact Professor Raveret Richter at 580-5083 [mrichter@skidmore.edu](mailto:mrichter@skidmore.edu) or Professor Grassi at 580-5441 [cgrassi@skidmore.edu](mailto:cgrassi@skidmore.edu).



## Skidmore Faculty

**MONICA RAVERET RICHTER** is an associate professor of Biology. She studies foraging behavior and social insects, and has extensive field experience in the tropical forests of Central America and Brazil. Dr. Raveret Richter lived in Costa Rica for over two years conducting research and teaching. She has served as visiting research faculty and field instructor for the Organization for Tropical Studies' Tropical Ecology graduate course and for the International Rain Forest Educators Workshop in Tortuguero, and lectured at the Universidad de Costa Rica and for the University of California's Education Abroad Program in Monteverde. She teaches courses in ecology, behavior, and conservation ecology, and has co-taught the Tropical Field Ecology Travel Seminar since its inception.

**CHRISTINA GRASSI** is a visiting assistant professor in Anthropology. As a primate ecologist, Dr. Grassi researches and teaches about interactions between non-human primates and their environment. She has conducted extensive field work in the tropical rainforests of Southeastern Madagascar. In addition, her work has important conservation implications for lemur and other primate species, and offers both human and non-human perspectives on conservation. She teaches courses in both Anthropology and Environmental Studies and co-taught the Tropical Field Ecology Travel Seminar in 2006.

## Anticipated Costs

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Costa Rica is \$2,650 (may fluctuate). This includes roundtrip airfare from New York to San Jose, all ground transportation in Costa Rica, onsite accommodations in field station, all meals, medical insurance, entrance fees, local resource faculty, excursions, Skidmore faculty onsite, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include personal expenses.

## Application

Applications are available from Professor Raveret Richter in Dana 370, Professor Grassi in Tisch Learning Center 223, or in OCSE in Starbuck 202. Application deadline is noon on Wednesday 24 October 2007. Applicants are required to submit a \$250 non-refundable deposit at the time of application in order to hold their space on the program. (100% refundable if not accepted to the program). The deposit will be applied to the program fee.