

PRELIMINARY TRAVEL SCHEDULE (subject to change)

- March 12 (Sat.) Coach transportation to NYC-area airport. Flight to San José, Costa Rica. Transport to Monteverde, Costa Rica. Orientation. Settle in at La Calandria field station.
- March 13 (Sun.) Monteverde Quaker Meeting or field exploration. Lunch and seminar, "History of Quakers in Monteverde," at the home of original Quaker settler Marvin Rockwell. Santa Helena scavenger hunt. Return to La Calandria for "Introduction to Bats" seminar and bat mist-netting with Richard La Val.
- March 14 (Mon.) Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve **all-day hike**. Introduction to cloud forest ecology and field observations. Visit hummingbird gallery. Dinner and seminar, "Climate Change and Amphibian Declines" with Alan Pounds.
- March 15 (Tue.) Field observations in Bajo del Tigre rain shadow forest. Transport to Finca la Bella. Lunch and farm tour with organic coffee grower Oldemar Salazar and family. Return to La Calandria for "History of Costa Rica" lecture with Mark Wainwright.
- March 16 (Wed.) Pre-breakfast avian mist-netting (conditions permitting). Presentation, "Natural History and Conservation of the Three-wattled Bellbird," and data collection in Bellbird Biological Corridor reforestation plots with Deb Hamilton. Transport to San Gerardo trailhead, Santa Helena Reserve. Hike to San Gerardo field station. Wainwright presentation, "The Children's Eternal Rainforest: Past, Present, and Future."
- March 17 (Thu.) Field orientation walk with introduction to butterflies. Group field projects. Wainwright presentation, "Amphibian Declines and Partial Recovery." Night hike.
- March 18 (Fri.) Field study projects. Hike out of San Gerardo. Drive to La Calandria. Wainwright presentation, "Introduction to Mangroves." Dinner at Tramonti restaurant.
- March 19 (Sat.) Depart for Carara, with crocodile observation at Tárcoles bridge en route. Nature walk in Carara National Park. Arrive at Cerro Lodge. Boat trip in Tárcoles estuary and mangroves.
- March 20 (Sun.) Bird observations at Cerro Lodge. Closing discussion. Flight from San José, Costa Rica, to Albany, New York. Return to campus.



COSTA RICA

Tropical Field Ecology

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For details about costs and travel logistics:
Lisa Hobbs
Off-Campus Study and Exchanges
Starbuck Center, room 202
518-580-5355
lhobbs@skidmore.edu

For details about course content and academic requirements:
Professor Monica Raveret Richter
Biology Department
Dana Science Center 370
518-580-5083
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Anne Gallagher Ernst
Environmental Studies Program Coordinator
Dana Science Center 180
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For details about available financial aid:
Financial Aid Office
Starbuck Center, room 101
518-580-5750
finaid@skidmore.edu

SKIDMORE

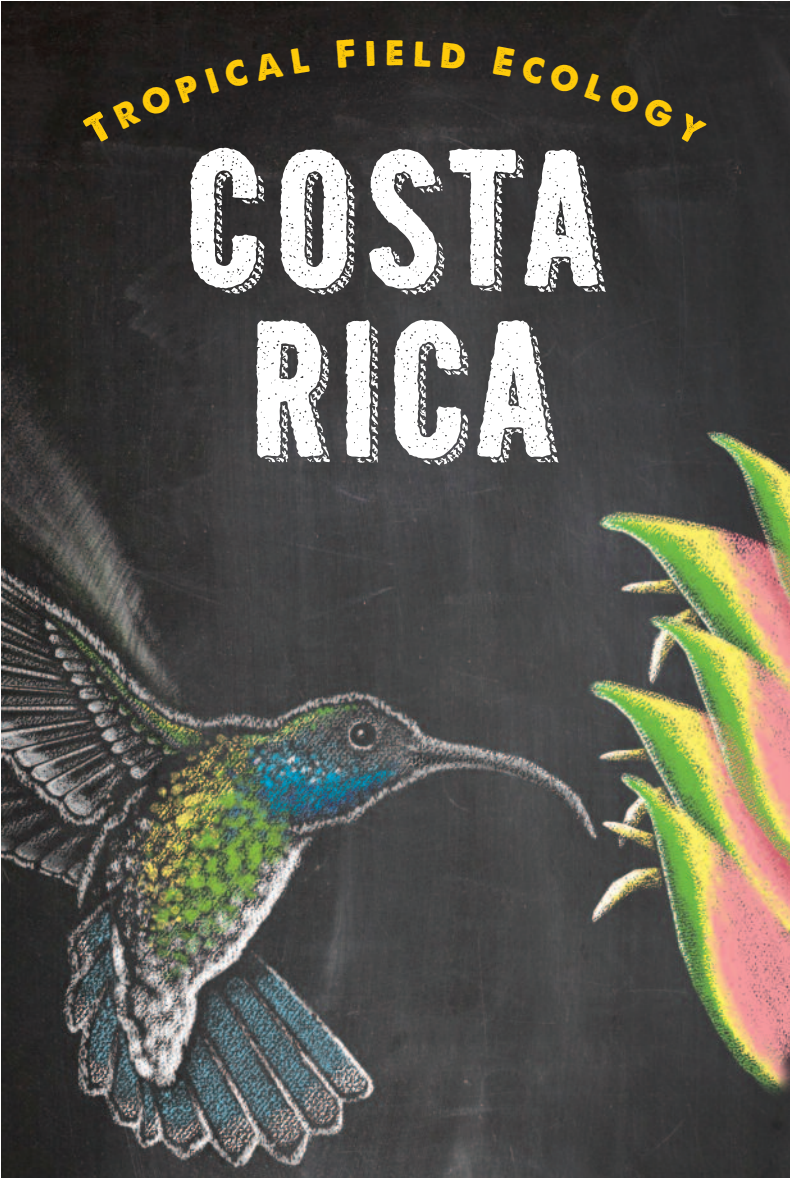
C O L L E G E

CREATIVE THOUGHT TRAVELS

OCSE 2015-16

TROPICAL FIELD ECOLOGY

COSTA RICA



**2-credit, 300-level travel seminar (TX 301)
to Monteverde and San José, Costa Rica
March 12-20, 2016**



TROPICAL FIELD ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION in Costa Rica

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.

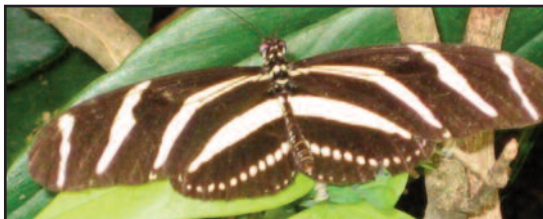
Monteverde, our base in Costa Rica, is bordered by three cloud forest preserves that include a mountaintop and its windward Atlantic and leeward Pacific slopes. The pronounced temperature and moisture gradients on these slopes produce varied habitats that are home to over 450 species of orchid and more 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 nonprofit 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 AND CONSERVATION IN COSTA RICA

"Tropical Field Ecology and Conservation" (TX 301) students will have weekly seminar meetings at Skidmore throughout the spring term, and will travel to Costa Rica for field studies March 12–20, 2016. Course instructors will schedule a meeting in fall 2015 to discuss logistics, equipment, immunizations, and code of conduct for the seminar. Travel seminar students are encouraged (as long as they meet the prerequisites) to also enroll in the spring-semester BI 325 "Tropical Ecology," a 3-credit lecture and discussion course taught on the Skidmore campus. TX 301 students will be given enrollment priority for BI 325.



FACULTY DIRECTORS

Monica Raveret Richter, associate professor of biology, studies foraging behavior and social insects, and has extensive field experience in the tropical forests of Central America and Brazil. 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 in Palo Verde and Monteverde 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. At Skidmore she teaches ecology, behavior, and conservation ecology, and has co-taught the "Tropical Field Ecology and Conservation" travel seminar since its inception.

Anne Gallagher Ernst, coordinator of Skidmore's Environmental Studies Program, is an aquatic ecologist whose research has focused on stream restoration and water quality. Most of her fieldwork has been in the Catskills and Adirondacks, and she has also worked in small watersheds in Mexico. She teaches "Field Studies in Environmental Science," which covers local watershed ecology, as well as "Environmental Concerns in Perspective," an overview of current environmental issues.

COSTS

The anticipated fee is \$3,500 (subject to fluctuation). This includes Skidmore tuition, round-trip airfare between New York and San José, Costa Rica, ground transportation for program excursions, on-site accommodations in field stations, all meals, international medical insurance, entrance fees, local resource faculty, excursions, Skidmore faculty on site, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include personal expenses.

Financial aid is available for eligible students.

REQUIREMENTS

Student wishing to enroll in the "Tropical Field Ecology and Conservation" travel seminar (TX 301) must have completed either BI 105 or ES 105. In the spring 2016 semester, BI 325 "Tropical Ecology" will be offered concurrently with TX 301. Students wishing to enroll in this concurrent on-campus course must have completed either BI 105 or ES 105 and also a 200-level biology course.

DEADLINE

Please apply by Friday, October 23, 2015. Application forms are at www.skidmore.edu/ocse. At the time of application, all applicants must submit a \$250 deposit, which will be applied to the program fee (100% refundable for applicants not accepted to the program).

