

Quick Facts About Belize:

- *The lowest population density but the second highest population growth rate in Central America*
- *a rich variety of wildlife and ecosystems*
- *a landmass of which 60% is covered by forest*
- *the second largest barrier reef in the world- designated a World Heritage Site*
- *strong environmental protection policies.*
- *culturally and linguistically diverse*
- *strong ties to both Latin America and the Caribbean*



For More Information:

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Vanier College
Universal Complementary Course
365-HSA-VA
Winter 2016

The Tropics: Opportunities and Challenges

An Exploration of Human-Environment Relationships in Belize



Course Description

Theory:

This International Study Course examines the opportunities and challenges faced by tropical countries that are both rich in natural resources and consist of high population density and/or growth rate. Topics will be addressed through a multi-disciplinary framework that will include natural resource sciences, economics, geography, international development, sociology, history and tourism. Course material will focus on the history and culture of Belize, its ecosystems and current environmental policy, as well as its economic growth strategies, with active learning as the main pedagogical approach. Evaluation will be based on various assignments and activities including trip journals, ecological footprint analyses, class presentations, and a group project.



Study Trip:

This course includes an 8 day field trip to Belize where students will be based at a biological research station in the South-Central, Stann Creek District (www.treesociety.org). In order to enrich the theoretical aspect of the course, daily, or overnight, excursions will be made to various sites including: The Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary for an exploration of local flora and fauna; the Tobacco Caye Marine Station for some snorkeling along the barrier reef and an examination of the marine ecosystem; the Maya Center and the Xunantunich Ruins to experience Mayan food, culture and history. Additional excursions will also be made to citrus farms, local rainforests, and various sites related to students' independent research projects.



Dates:

Classes:

Fridays 1:00-4:00pm

- January 22nd - March 4th, 2016
- April, 2016 (Date TBA)

Study Trip: March 11 - 19th, 2016

Departure (United Airlines):

- Montreal (6:45am) - Houston (10:35am)
- Houston (1:15pm) - Belize City (3:45pm)

Return (United Airlines):

- Belize City (9:45am) - Houston (1:25pm)
- Houston (3:45pm) - Montreal (8:30pm)

Costs:

Total Trip: \$2700

Includes:

- Airfare
- All ground transportation
- Accommodation for 8 nights
- 3 meals per day
- Entrance fees to all activities
- Guides and Faculty supervision

Payment Schedule

- October 31st, 2015:.....\$200 Deposit
- December 18th, 2015:.....First Payment 60%
- January 29th, 2016:.....Final Payment 40%

Additional Information:

Things you will need:

- Passport valid for 6 months past departure date
- Visa to enter US if you are not a Canadian citizen
- Vaccinations (Hepatitis A and Typhoid)