Anthropology 3200—J-Term 2013-14
Exploring Sustainability in Costa Rica

Class Taught by:
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Course Objectives
The goals of this international short-term study abroad course are to:

• To provide students with an understanding of the diversity and complexity of Latin American cultures.
• To provide an introduction to Latin America so that students will be better prepared to interpret social, political and economic issues as they arise in the future.
• To explore the concept and practice of sustainability in an international context.
• To introduce the students to an international service learning experience so that they may become more informed and engaged global citizens.

Required Readings
Reading Packet prepared by David Syring and Michelle Hargrave

Class Format
For the first nine days of the course we will be based in San Jose, the capital and largest city of Costa Rica. You will spend mornings in small group Spanish language classes according to your level of proficiency. In the afternoons, we will hold class (in English) covering cultural material. We will also take several field trips (to museums, a Catholic mass, urban infrastructure sites, a coffee plantation, and a restaurant specializing in Costa Rican cuisine).

We will then travel to El Silencio Cooperative located near the coastal town of Quipos. El Silencio (http://coopesilencio.blogspot.com/p/about-el-silencio.html) is an agricultural cooperative of approximately 80 families (500 people). While here, you will stay in the home of a member family. In the mornings you will participate in one of several service learning opportunities at the Cooperative. In the afternoons we will hold class sessions, both to cover more background material on Latin American cultures and to process your experiences in the service learning activities. We will take one planned fieldtrip to the nearby Manuel Antonio National Park.

During our stay at El Silencio you will offer a brief presentation to the community either demonstrating some aspect of what you learned while staying at the Cooperative, or sharing a cultural skill you possess (for example, playing music, teaching a children’s game or song, dancing, etc.). We hope to organize a “community fair” day during which you will have a chance to do this.

Upon returning to San Jose, you’ll take a final exam and have one final day for touring the city/taking advantage of cultural opportunities.

You will be required to complete a final reflection and give a public presentation about your experience abroad during the spring semester at UMD. You will be responsible for scheduling this in consultation with your instructors.

Policies
Students must read and agree to the policies outlined by the course instructors and by the CRLA and El Silencio Cooperative. Irresponsible, inappropriate, or dangerous actions, including any that result in disciplinary action by CRLA or El Silencio staff, will result in course failure.
Grading
30% Field Journals, including daily entries, weekly reflections and a final report.
30% Public Presentations (first on site at the Cooperative, and second on campus of UMD during the Spring semester)
10% Exam on Readings, Fieldtrips and Lecture Materials
30% Service Project and Reflection

Tentative Schedule  *(To be finalized during fall semester)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon/Evening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 26</td>
<td>Depart MSP Airport</td>
<td>Arrive in San Jose</td>
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| Fri. Dec. 27  | Orientation  
Introduction to Latin American Cultures  
**Plan to begin at about 11 a.m.**  
Costa Rica Background Quiz  
**Read CIA Fact Sheet**  
Dance Class—1 p.m.   | Preparations for taking field notes  
Visit from Carlos, lawyer with knowledge about economic development in the Costa Rican environment.  
Transport to Homestays—5 p.m.  
David and Michelle move to hotel near homestay neighborhood. |
| Sat. Dec. 28  | Reading Time  
**Reading packet:**  
*Culture and Customs of Costa Rica:*  
“Intro and Chronology”  
Chpt. 1  
*Gmelch & Wolcott*  
Preparations for taking field notes  
Visit from Carlos, lawyer with knowledge about economic development in the Costa Rican environment.  
Transport to Homestays—5 p.m.  
David and Michelle move to hotel near homestay neighborhood. |
| Sun. Dec. 29  | *Group attends Church Service*  
**Read before attending:**  
*Culture and Customs of Costa Rica:*  
Chpt. 3: “Religion”  
Discussion of church experience and field notes  
Visit National Museum after lunch. |
| Mon. Dec. 30  | Hydro dam trip & Rainforest  
Selva Verde Lodge  
Trip to Hydro dam  
1:30-2:30 More Language  
Sustainability in Theory and Practice  
**Readings:**  
*Vandana Shiva & Sustainability: A Comprehensive Fnd.* |
| Tues. Dec. 31 | Language classes for appropriate level  
8:30-12:30 p.m.  
Sustainability in Theory and Practice  
**Readings:**  
*Vandana Shiva & Sustainability: A Comprehensive Fnd.* |
| Weds. Jan. 1  | No Language Class—National Holiday  
Students to consult with David and Michelle about plans for the day.  
Costa Rican Exceptionalism:  
Democracy, Peace and Standards of Living  
**Readings:**  
*Culture and Customs of Costa Rica:*  
Chpt. 2: Legacy of Social Reform and What Makes CR So Different?”  
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Democracy, Peace and Standards of Living  
**Readings:**  
*Culture and Customs of Costa Rica:*  
Chpt. 2: Legacy of Social Reform and What Makes CR So Different?” |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Jan. 2</td>
<td>Language classes for appropriate level Language Class 8:30-12:30 p.m. Globalization and Its Impacts on People’s Lives</td>
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<td>Fri. Jan. 3</td>
<td>Language classes for appropriate level Food, Cuisine and Cultural Expression Cooking Class Evening Event: Costa Rican Feast--restaurant</td>
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<td>Sat. Jan. 4</td>
<td>Field Trip to Coffee Plantation</td>
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<td>Sun., Jan. 5</td>
<td>Field Trip to Coffee Plantation</td>
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<td>Mon. Jan. 6</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Tues. Jan. 7</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Weds. Jan. 8</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Jan. 9</td>
<td>Field Trip to Manuel Antonio National Park</td>
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<td>Fri. Jan. 10</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Sat. Jan. 11</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Sun. Jan. 12</td>
<td>Time for Independent Activities</td>
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<td>Mon. Jan. 13</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Tues. Jan. 14</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Weds. Jan. 15</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
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<td>Thurs. Jan. 16</td>
<td>Travel to San Jose</td>
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<td>Fri. Jan. 17</td>
<td>Final Day of cultural opportunities</td>
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<td>Sat. Jan. 18</td>
<td>Flight to MPLS.</td>
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