Tropical Ecology Field Studies by

*Filling out the Interest Form at bit.ly/tropicalecology*

*In November* Register for the BIO30L Tropical Ecology Field Studies Spring semester 1 unit class (required)

*By December 10* Airline seat deposit of $100.00 due to Direct Travel. Direct travel can be reached at (952) 746-3563

*February 7* Mandatory in-person orientation and BIO30L class meeting from 5-9pm at Mission College.

*Mission College’s Agreement packet due*

*By February 10* Final payment for airfare of $721.82 is due to Direct Travel

*By February 26* Program payment of $1360 due to Veritas Universidad

*By March 5* Cut-off date for purchasing the trip insurance coverage (~$18) from Student Insurance

**PROGRAM LAND FEES: $1,360 per participant**

*Includes:*

- Group Airport Pick up and Drop off
- Ground transportation throughout the program
- Lodging at Monteverde Cloud Forest area
- Lodging at Cirenas Nicoya
- Skywalk Hanging Bridges Tour
- Night hike at Monteverde reserve
- Day guided tour at Monteverde Reserve
- Butterfly Garden Visit
- Educational Activities at Cirenas
- All meals from Day 2 until Day 7
- Academic activities at Universidad Veritas
- Homestay lodging in San Jose
- Accompanying Veritas Faculty member for support throughout the program

*For more information, contact program leader: Jean Replicon jean.replicon@wvm.edu or (408) 855 5267 bit.ly/tropicalecology*
In this introductory level class, students carry out research methods that ecologists use to observe and investigate tropical ecosystems. This lab course may be taken with or without BIOSC 030, Tropical Ecology. The class will meet once on campus during the Spring semester and travel to Costa Rica during Spring Break, March 28- April 4, 2020. Students will have the opportunity to skywalk above the rainforest canopy, bird watch, visit a butterfly farm, and take night hikes to see and hear the amazing rainforest after dark.

This class is transferrable, has no pre-requisites and can be taken as Pass/No Pass.

2020 Program Itinerary

Day 1 03/28/20   Saturday Arrival
Arrival to Costa Rica on AA flight 1353 scheduled to arrive 6:50pm from Miami. Airport Pick up by Universidad Veritas and drop off at your homestay.

Day 2 03/29/20   Sunday Activities
- Breakfast with your host family  
- Departure to Monteverde Cloud Forest  
- Check in Hotel  
- Lunch at Monteverde  
- Skywalk Hanging Bridges Tour  
- Dinner  
- Night Hike at Monteverde Reserve

Day 3 03/30/20   Monday Activities
- Breakfast  
- Guided tour of Monteverde Reserve  
- Butterfly Garden Visit  
- Lunch on the road to Nicoya  
- Arrival at Cirenas  
- Visit Turtle Nursery-Conservation efforts  
- Dinner at Cirenas  
- Introduction to local Wildlife – Camera Trap project and methods

Day 4 03/30/20   Tuesday Activities
- Breakfast  
- Walk in Caletas Ario National Reserve  
- Camera Traps data collection  
- Lunch  
- Camera Trap Data Analysis in groups  
- Dinner  
- Permaculture in Cirenas  
- Fish ID activity  
- Turtle Patrol

Day 5 04/01/20   Wednesday Activities
- Breakfast at Cirenas  
- Permaculture/Biodigester tour  
- Mask fitting and Snorkeling tips and safety  
- Take box Lunch for snorkeling trip  
- Snorkeling Adventure at Playa Suecos  
- Dinner  
- Presentation on Bull Sharks and Rays monitoring and Conservation projects

Day 6 04/02/20   Thursday Activities
- Breakfast  
- Departure from Cirenas  
- Ferry Paquera to Puntarenas  
- Lunch at VERITAS  
- Short tour of VERITAS campus  
- Introduction to Molecular Conservation Biology  
- Shuttle Service to Homestays  
- Dinner with Host families in San Jose  
(Time to separate laundry to give to your Mama Tica)

Day 7 04/03/20   Friday Activities
- Breakfast with host family  
- Lab exercise of DNA extraction of shark fins samples and PCR  
- Electrophoresis process and analysis  
- Lunch at VERITAS  
- Presentations of other projects at the BIOMOL  
- Final debriefing Coffee break session  
- Shuttle to Host families  
- Dinner with Host families in San Jose

Day 8 04/04/20   Saturday Activities
Departure back to U.S. 10 a.m. Airport Drop off from San Jose. Departure AA Flight 1080 at 1:15pm

BIO 030L • Spring Break 2020 • March 28 - April 4, 2020
Reserve your space now!