

Tropical Biology in Costa Rica

Spring 2012

This course (**BIO 320 - Tropical Biology in Costa Rica**) will be offered as a Spring 2012 course, in conjunction with a prerequisite 1-credit Seminar (**BIO 360 - Tropical Forest Ecosystems**) that will also be offered during the Spring 2010 semester. The field experience portion of the course involves a 12 day trip to the Sarapiquí region of northeastern Costa Rica (**May 21 – June 1, 2012**). The two-course sequence satisfies one of the 300-level course requirements for the Biology Major. Although the cost of the trip has not yet been finalized, it should be approximately \$2300, which includes transportation, food, lodging, entrance fees, taxes, and gratuities. We anticipate financial aid will be available to offset some of the cost of the course.

BIO 360 - Tropical Forest Ecosystems This is a 1-credit seminar that will meet every two weeks throughout the spring semester. Successful completion of this seminar is a prerequisite for participation in BIO 320.

BIO 320 - Tropical Biology in Costa Rica This 3-credit field course will focus on various aspects of tropical forest ecology and conservation issues confronting developing countries in the neotropics. Costa Rica, with only .03% of the world's surface, is considered one of the top 20 countries in the world in terms of biodiversity, containing roughly 4% of the world's species. With its lowland tropical forests, volcanic peaks, and lush cloud forests, Costa Rica boasts a remarkable diversity of terrestrial habitats and has long been a favorite destination of naturalists. **Registration is by permission of instructor only. Pick up an application form from Dr. Elliott or Dr. Szczys. If accepted for participation, a \$200 deposit is due December 1, 2011. The deposit is fully refundable until March 1, 2012.**