Travel and expenses

The course will take place Spring semester 2016, during the 3 weeks students have for Winter break:

December 27, 2015 - January 16, 2016

The estimated costs for the trip include:

- Room and board, transportation in Costa Rica, and National Park admission fee - $2,200.
- Air fare - $600-$800
- Tuition - 5 credits

Application Deadline:
Friday, September 18, 2015

Maximum Number of BSCI undergraduate seats available: 20

Apply Today!

Online Application:
http://goo.gl/forms/sJK54uCuoJ

Contact Information:

Department of Biological Sciences
Kent State University
135 Cunningham Hall
Kent, OH 44242

Dr. Oscar Rocha
orocha@kent.edu
www.kent.edu/biology
Tropical Field Biology and Conservation

This course is an adventure into the world of tropical ecology and conservation, designed to introduce students to many of the major issues in this field. Students will learn how to apply modern field-observation techniques to generate and test problem-solving hypotheses. In addition, participants will learn about the threats to the biological diversity of tropical ecosystems, resulting from human activities.

Who can take this course?
Tropical Field Biology and Conservation is ideal for undergraduate students who have taken introductory ecology or its equivalent, and for graduate students interested in tropical biology, field-study techniques or teaching methods in ecology. Teachers and alumni interested in natural history, ecology, or Central America would also be welcome to apply.

Field Experience: the Classroom
The course emphasizes the use of field work to address specific issues in tropical ecology. Students will be responsible for:

- The design and collection of data in field projects under the supervision of participating faculty
- Conducting data analysis and presenting results and conclusions to their classmates
- Provide a written report for each of the four projects conducted in Costa Rica- reports to follow the format of a scientific article written for Biotropica- the journal of tropical biology and conservation.

For more information, visit:
www.kent.edu/biology

Course Highlights
Along with the lifetime experience of travel to the field stations in Costa Rica, students will be given the opportunity to learn about and participate in:

- The tropics’ characteristics, biodiversity, and biogeography
- Observing the characteristics of tropical rain forests, tropical seasonally dry forests, the mangrove forest
- Geography and climate of Costa Rica
- Diversity of plants and animals, tropical terrestrial, marine, and fresh water communities
- Discovering the natural history of the plants and animals that inhabit the tropical landscapes
- Ecology of major tropical communities
- Patterns of land use and agroecology
- Biological conservation