I. Description of Course:

1. Department/Course: ENVS - 211C
2. Title: Selected Topic: Tropical Environment and Culture
3. Cross Reference:
4. Units: 1
   - Lec Hrs: 0.5
   - Lab Hrs: 1.5
   - Tot Hrs: 36.00
5. Repeatability: No
6. Grade Options: Letter Grade, May Petition for Pass/No Pass (GC)

12. Catalog Description:
   A study abroad course examining the natural history of tropical ecosystems and the interaction of human and natural environment. Travel to a foreign country to observe rainforest, rivers, and oceans. Immerse yourself in the culture and support local economies to encourage conservation and protection of natural resources.

13. Class Schedule Description:
   International study abroad trip to study the natural history and interactions of humans and tropical ecosystems.

14. Counselor Information:
   This trip will occur between Fall and Spring Semester.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

1. Identify and describe major ecosystems within the region and the climatic and geologic characteristics that create them.
2. Recognize a variety of ecological interactions (predation, parasitism, herbivory, etc.) within each ecosystem and adaptations of regional plants and animals
3. Evaluate the environmental challenges imposed upon the biota and people of the region and propose solutions

III. Course Content:

A. Geology
   1. Land formation past and current
   2. Successional change

B. Human History
   1. Indigenous people
   2. European discovery
   3. Spanish colonialism
IV. Course Assignments:

A. Reading Assignments
1. Selected readings from reader which include chapters about National Parks, landscapes, ecology, history, flora and fauna.

B. Projects, Activities, and other Assignments
1. Nature videos about region’s biodiversity
2. Hiking in National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries to observe different habitats
3. Insect diversity photo journal
4. Discussion about development and environmental issues vs habitat protection

C. Writing Assignments
1. Comprehensive travel journal
2. Inventory of plants and animals observed in each ecosystem and their adaptations
3. List of observed environmental issues and evaluation of some proposed solutions

V. Methods of Evaluation:

A. Visual identification quiz of common plants (SLO 1 & 2)
B. Visual identification quiz of common animals (SLO 1 & 2)
C. Evaluation of field notebooks detailing habitats, flora, fauna, and adaptations (SLO 1 & 2)
D. Evaluation of discussions and paper about environmental issues and development (SLO 3)

VI. Methods of Instruction:

A. Lecture
B. Laboratory
C. Discussion
D. Audiovisual
E. Seminar
F. Collaborative Learning
G. Web-enhanced

VII. Textbooks:

Recommended

Supplemental

VIII. Supplies:

A. Passport, travel gear, notebook