

PSC 285T: Environmental Politics in the Developing World (Costa Rica)
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Objective:

Costa Rica is a country known for its robust environmental protection policies and relatively high standards of living. Yale's Environmental Protection Index consistently scores Costa Rica in the top third of all countries and well ahead of its Central American neighbors. Scoring similarly well on the UN's Human Development Index, Costa Rica currently ranks 66 out of 188 countries putting the country in the "high human development" category on the indicator.

In our two weeks in Costa Rica we explore the relationship between these two indicators. How does environmental protection (independent variable) shape human development (dependent variable) and vice versa? We begin this process in the hypothesis generation phase interviewing experts on environmental policy as well as Costa Ricans from across the socio-economic spectrum. As we progress through the course we develop models that try to answer our research questions and collect data to test them. Politics is about who gets what, when, and how. "Environmental Politics in the Developing World" explores the ways in which environmental policies, or lack thereof, benefit some while harming others.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed such that students who have immersed themselves in the readings, attended lectures regularly, completed all assignments diligently, studied for quizzes and exams, and participated fully in the course in general should be able to do the following by the end of the course:

- The student will be able to describe major theories on the relationship between policy and the environment.
- The student will be able to highlight the major environmental challenges facing Costa Rica today and explain the multi-faceted debates around proper responses.
- The student will be able to professionally conduct interviews and systematically record data from these interviews for use in social scientific analysis.
- The student will be able to engage critically and creatively with data we collect to test hypotheses.

Requirements:

Though it may be altered slightly and/or clarified by professorial edict either in class or via email, consider this syllabus a contract between you and your professors that lists both what you can expect from class and what is expected of you. Check it regularly and bring it to class with your notebook. Prior to leaving for Costa Rica you are expected to read EVERYTHING assigned on the

syllabus. As we travel you are also expected to attend EVERY lecture and presentation. This course is not a vacation so you are expected to bring your intellectual curiosity to our site visits and take notes as you would in a course in preparation for your course notebook assignment.

You will be evaluated in this class based on your performance in 4 areas. These areas, along with their relative weights, are as follows:

Pre-Trip Expectations Essay (10%) – Prior to leaving for Costa Rica all students will submit an expectations essay. While reflective in nature, this assignment is not informal. Connect your interests with likely experiences in Costa Rica to describe in less than 2 pages (single-spaced) what you hope to gain from the course. Essays are due via Blackboard Assignments by 30 July. Unexcused late essays will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per day.

Exam #1 (20%) – Administered via Blackboard on Friday 4 August. The exam is open book (you MAY use your texts and/or notes but you MAY NOT collaborate with other individuals) and covers the assigned readings and pre-trip lectures. It will be available from 5:00am until 10:00pm Eastern Daylight Time. While you may start the exam any time during this window, you have only 1 hour from the time you begin to complete the exam. The exam includes multiple-choice and essay questions. There will be NO review sheet. Unexcused late exams will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per day. If you miss an exam it is YOUR responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to schedule a make-up.

Exam #2 (20%) – Given out near the end of the Costa Rica travel portion of the course. The exam covers all material from the assigned readings, lectures, and experiential education opportunities. The exam includes multiple-choice and essay questions. There will be NO review sheet. Unexcused late exams will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per day. If you miss an exam it is YOUR responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to schedule a make-up.

Course Notebook (30%) – This notebook should have (I) field notes, (II) a daily travel journal, and (III) two essays.

(I) When we employ interview and observation data collection techniques as part of fieldwork assignments your notes should be systematically recorded in your course notebook. This means a field note entry for every site we visit and all of your interviews.

(II) Additionally for each day we are in Costa Rica you should document the significant things you learned and experienced in a brief (no more than 1 page) summary entry. The content of this daily travel journal may be shared with content in your BIO 112 notebook.

(III) To round out your course notebook you should complete two essay assignments prior to your return to the US. The questions these assignments focus on are “how have Costa Rica’s environmental protection projects impacted the natural environment and the people?” and “Compare and contrast Costa Rica’s environmental protection projects with those of your home country. Who benefits from each countries’ policies and who does not?” Essays should not be longer than 3 single-spaced pages in length. As the assignment counts for nearly a third of your course grade, I am looking for thoroughness and quality writing and presentation. You should consult readings but also evidence we collect in Costa Rica.

Notebooks are due via Blackboard no later than Friday 25 August. Unexcused late notebooks will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per day.

Participation (20%) – This is the type of course you need to be actively engaged in to reap the full benefit. What this means in practical terms is showing up and contributing to class discussions and fully engaging with the experiences in Costa Rica. These points are not automatic; you will need to work for them by going to all the course content presentations prepared to digest the information and displaying intellectual curiosity.

Important Due Dates:

Pre-Trip Essay	Sunday 30 July
Exam #1	Friday 4 August
#2	sometime August 21-23
Course Notebook	Friday 25 August

Grading:

The course letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Quality Points</i>	<i>Numeric Scale*</i>
A	4.0	93-100
AB	3.5	88-92
B	3.0	83-87
BC	2.5	78-82
C	2.0	73-77
CD	1.5	68-72
D	1.0	60-67
F	0.0	Below 60

*I will round up at the .5 and NOT before. For example, if you earn an 87.49 you will receive a B for the class. If you earn an 87.5 you will receive an AB. The only exception to this rule concerns the line between a D and an F. If you make below 60 points, even if it is by the smallest fraction of a point, I will NOT round up.

Required Readings:

Campbell, Lisa M. 2002. "Conservation Narratives in Costa Rica: Conflict and Co-existence." *Development and Change* 33: 29-56.

Kaimowitz, David. 2005. "Useful myths and intractable truths: the politics of the link between forests and water in Central America." In *Forests, Water and People in the Humid Tropics*, eds. M. Bonnell and L.A. Bruijnzeel. New York, NY: Cambridge.

Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. New York, NY: Cambridge.

Course Note:

A draft itinerary of our time in Costa Rica follows. This itinerary gives you a rough idea of what we will be doing each day while in country. Though there are no immediate plans to alter this itinerary, it is not unusual to see adjustments happen prior to, and during, travel. Any alterations will be announced either in lecture, via Blackboard, or by email.

As this course has a healthy travel component, rules and guidelines of the University of Tampa International Programs Office (IPO) are in effect. It is important to be safe while abroad and respectful of both our host communities and fellow travelers. IPO offers suggestions on all these accounts on their website (<https://www.ut.edu/educationabroad/>) and via supplemental materials on our Blackboard site. While curricular inquiries should be directed my way, if you do not find an answer to your question about travel to Costa Rica or traveling as part of an academic course at UT in general, please direct queries to abroad@ut.edu.

Like all courses at UT (both inside and outside of the classroom) this course is governed by the University of Tampa's academic policies. Though there are a number of these policies outlined on the Provost's webpage (<http://www.ut.edu/provost/>), all of which are important, two in particular are relevant to our pre-semester course. Please familiarize yourself with UT's academic integrity (<https://tinyurl.com/UTAcInteg>) and classroom disruption (<https://tinyurl.com/UTDisruption>) policies before the course begins. Though we will cover these topics in some detail in the fall semester via your HON101 course, you are expected to abide by these policies even in August.

This syllabus gives you the information you need now to plan for the two weeks of PSC285T in Costa Rica. As you read through the syllabus you learn what the expectations of the course are and what readings (ALL!) and assignments (pre-departure essays and Exam #1) you are responsible for prior to arriving in Tampa for pre-departure. Do not hesitate to send me an email if you have any questions.



Educación para un Futuro Sostenible Education for a Sustainable Future

University of Tampa

“Water Policy and Ecology in Costa Rica”

Explore the economic, ecological, and political issues surrounding water as a resource in Costa Rica. On the windward Caribbean slope, water is abundant; however, 6000 people are no longer able to drink their tap water due to contamination with agrochemical residues. In Monteverde, which sits at the continental divide, a recently formed water commission is addressing issues such as graywater management in the zone dominated by a tourism economy. On the leeward Pacific slope, tensions are high between families and large-scale agriculture for limited water.

August 9th – 23rd, 2017

13-17 students, professors Mason Meers and Kevin Fridy, 1-2 MVI coordinators

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9	ARRIVAL IN COSTA RICA
	Afternoon arrival at Juan Santamaría Airport
	Airport transfer and hotel check-in
	Lunch at restaurant
	Program orientation & cultural norms (Meers, Fridy, and MVI Coordinator)
	Health & safety briefing (MVI Coordinator and Meers)
	Introduction to relevant legal framework in Costa Rica (MVI Coordinator)
Evening	Dinner at hotel/restaurant
	Introduction to survey (with Fridy)
LODGING	Hotel Aranjuez (1) Tel:

DAY 2 THURSDAY AUGUST 10	WATER GOVERNANCE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
7:00am	Breakfast at hotel
8:00am	Depart for Los Tajos
8:30am	Presentation: Urban Water Management Issues and Water Governance in Costa Rica (with AyA representative) http://www.accion-agua.com/pressroom/news/2015/september/accion-agua-inaugurates-los-tajos-wastewater-treatment-plant-costa-rica/
10:30pm	Tour of Los Tajos wastewater treatment plant (with AyA representative)
11:30pm	Depart for restaurant
12:30pm	Lunch at restaurant
2:00pm	Presentation: Rutas Naturbanas – Connecting People with the City through Nature (by Rutas Naturbanas representative) http://rutasnaturbanas.org/
	Time for interviews in San José
6:00pm	Dinner at restaurant
	Class discussion (Meers, Fridy, and MVI Coordinator)
LODGING	Hotel Aranjuez (2) Tel:

DAY 3 FRIDAY AUGUST 11		SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIVITY ALONG URBAN RIVERS
7:00am	Breakfast at hotel	
	Load luggage onto bus	
8:30am	Depart for EARTH University	
	Stop en route to sample and discuss tropical fruits	
10:30am	Approximate arrival time to EARTH University	
	Check in and orientation at EARTH https://www.earth.ac.cr/	
12:00pm	Lunch at EARTH cafeteria	
1:00pm	Tour: Farm and Biodigester (with EARTH students)	
	Free time on campus	
6:00pm	Dinner at cafeteria	
Evening	Mini-presentation and Discussion: Payments for Environmental Services and Carbon Neutrality in Costa Rica (with MVI coordinator)	
LODGING	EARTH University (1) Tel: 2713-0018	

DAY 4 SATURDAY AUGUST 12		AGRICULTURE IN THE CARIBBEAN PLAINS LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION
7:00am	Breakfast at cafeteria	
8:00am	Tour: Banana Production and Packing (with EARTH students)	
10:00am	Depart for Milano	
10:30am	Tour the community of Milano, learn about the pineapple industry and its impact on the zone, view the community's water catchments, discuss land use change (with Xinia Briseño, ASADA President) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Pnt3UUJ3uA	
12:00pm	Lunch and discussion with ASADA members	
1:00pm	Time to conduct interviews in Milano	
2:00pm	Transfer to La Selva biological station	
4:00pm	Arrive at La Selva for orientation to station http://www.tropicalstudies.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=162&Itemid=348 Get settled in	
6:00pm	Dinner at station cafeteria	
Evening	Presentation: (with Carlos de la Rosa, La Selva Biological Station Director – tentative)	
LODGING	La Selva Biological Station (1) Tel: 2766-6565	

DAY 5 SUNDAY AUGUST 13		LOWLAND TROPICAL RAINFOREST ECOLOGY ORGANIC PINEAPPLE PRODUCTION
6:30am	Breakfast at station cafeteria Informal birding around cafeteria (MVI Coordinator)	
8:00am	Natural history hike through lowland tropical rainforest (with La Selva guides)	
12:00pm	Lunch at station cafeteria	
1:00pm	Depart for pineapple farm	

1:30pm	Tour an organic pineapple farm
	Time for interviews in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí
5:00pm	Class discussion (with Meers, Fridy, and MVI Coordinator)
6:00pm	Dinner at station
Evening	Night walk (with La Selva guides)
LODGING	La Selva Biological Station (2) Tel: 2766-6565

DAY 6 MONDAY AUGUST 14	WATER AS A RECREATIONAL / TOURISTIC RESOURCE
6:30am	Breakfast at station Dress ready for rafting, with change of clothes and plastic bag for wet clothes
7:30am	Depart for La Fortuna <i>U Tampa activity – rafting (paid for by UT on-site; MVI provides transportation)</i> <i>Lunch independent (usually included in rafting package)</i>
Late afternoon	Check in and get settled at hotel
Evening	Pizza dinner in La Fortuna
LODGING	Catarata Ecolodge (1) Tel:

DAY 7 TUESDAY AUGUST 15	WATER MANAGEMENT – HYDROELECTRICITY, AQUACULTURE HOT SPRINGS
7:00am	Breakfast at hotel Be prepared for hike, afternoon activity, hot springs, and bus back to hotel
8:00am	Depart for national park Natural history hike in Arenal Volcano National Park, including park history (with professors and coordinator)
11:30pm	Lunch in La Fortuna Time for interviews in La Fortuna <i>Independent UTampa activities (options: hike to waterfall, Venado caves, town – paid for by UT on-site)</i>
4:30pm	Meet at location TBD
5:00pm	Dinner and relaxation at Ecotermales hot springs
9:00pm	Transfer to hotel
LODGING	Catarata Ecolodge (2) Tel:

DAY 8 WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16	ARENAL VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK RENEWABLE ENERGY
7:00am	Breakfast at hotel Load bags on bus Collect bag lunch
8:00am	Depart hotel
9:00am	Tour the Peñas Blancas hydroelectric plant
11:30am	Transfer to Arenal lake

12:00pm	Bag lunch at lake
1:00pm	Boat across lake
	Transfer to Monteverde Stop to view wind turbines and discuss renewable en route (with professors and coordinator)
3:30pm	Approximate arrival to lodge
	Discussion time
6:00pm	Dinner at lodge
Evening	Class discussion (with Meers and Fridy)
LODGING	Cala Lodge (1) Tel:

DAY 9 THURSDAY AUGUST 17	MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST PRESERVE THE MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE
6:30am	Breakfast at lodge Collect bag lunch
7:30am	Transfer to Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve http://www.cloudforestmonteverde.com/
8:00am	Natural history hike to the continental divide, canopy bridge, and waterfall (with local guides) Bag lunch in reserve Visit hummingbird gallery
12:30pm	Presentation: Climate Change Research in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve (with Alan Pounds, MCFP Director of Research)
2:00pm	Transfer to MVI
2:15pm	Refreshments at MVI
2:30pm	Informational Tour: The Monteverde Institute and Sustainability Issues (with MVI representative) http://monteverde-institute.org/
	Time for interviews in Santa Elena
6:00pm	Dinner at lodge
Evening	Class discussion (with Meers and Fridy)
LODGING	Cala Lodge (2) Tel:

DAY 10 FRIDAY AUGUST 18	COFFEE PRODUCTION REFORESTATION AND WATER QUALITY FIELD WORK MONTEVERDE WATER COMMISSION
7:00am	Breakfast at lodge Collect bag lunch
8:00am	Depart for Cañitas
8:30am	Coffee farm tour and sustainability discussion, including irrigation water concession (with LIFE representative) Refreshments on farm
10:30am	Transfer to Nacimiento y Vida
11:00am	Reforestation and water quality monitoring at Nacimiento y Vida in the Bellbird Biological Corridor (with Deb Hamilton or other FCC representative and MVI Adopt-A-Stream program coordinator) Lunch in the field
2:00pm	Transfer to MVI
2:30pm	Refreshments at MVI
2:45pm	Data analysis (reforestation and carbon sequestration, – follow-up to previous reforestation work by UT tropical biology students)

	Lab work (identify aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality)
4:15pm	Reforestation and water quality groups present findings to each other and discuss connections
	Transfer to lodge
6:00pm	Dinner at lodge
	Class discussion (with Meers and Fridy)
LODGING	Cala Lodge (3) Tel:

DAY 11 SATURDAY AUGUST 19	CANOPY WATER EXPLORATION REFOESTATION AND WATER QUALITY DATA ANALYSIS RAINSHADOW FOREST
7:00am	Breakfast at station
8:00am	Transfer to Sky Adventures
8:30am	<i>U Tampa activity – ziplining (paid for by UT on-site; MVI provides reservation and transportation)</i>
11:30am	Transfer to Santa Elena
12:00am	Lunch at restaurant
	Free time in Monteverde / Santa Elena
3:45pm	Transfer to MVI
4:00pm	Roundtable discussion with members of the Monteverde Water Commission regarding water issues in the Monteverde zone
5:15pm	Walk to Bajo del Tigre Visitors Center in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest http://acmcr.org/bajo_tigre_en.htm
5:30pm	Night walk (with local guide)
7:30pm	Dinner at Tramonti Italian restaurant
LODGING	Cala Lodge (4) Tel:

DAY 12 SUNDAY AUGUST 20	THE BELLBIRD BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR: CONNECTIVITY, LAND USE, WATER RIGHTS, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
6:30am	Breakfast at lodge Load bags onto bus
7:30am	Depart lodge
	Stop at San Luis overlook
9:00am	Visit Sustainability Demonstration Center and learn about local water issues http://sustainablecostarica.blogspot.com/
	Discuss land use in the lower sector of the corridor
11:15am	Round table discussion with Costa de Pájaros community members regarding economic opportunities, and community initiatives and organization
12:00pm	Lunch at Mariposas del Golfo https://mariposasdelgolfo.com/ Time for interviews in Costa de Pájaros
	Continue on to Uvita (approx. 4 hrs.)
	Check in at hotel
6:00pm	Dinner at hotel
Evening	Reef ecology discussion – coral reef ecology, global temp change, water quality in marine environments (with Meers)
LODGING	La Cusinga Lodge (1) Tel:

DAY 13 MONDAY AUGUST 21		MANGROVES SNORKELING	
7:00am		Breakfast at lodge	
8:00am		Depart lodge	
Morning		Snorkeling tour	
		Lunch	
Afternoon		Mangrove tour	
Evening		Dinner at hotel	
LODGING		La Cusinga Lodge (2) Tel:	

DAY 14 TUESDAY AUGUST 22		BEACH TIME	
7:00am		Breakfast at lodge	
Morning		Time to conduct interviews	
		Free time at beach	
11:00am		Get ready to leave and check out of lodge	
12:00pm		Lunch at lodge	
1:00pm		Depart for San José	
5:00pm		Approximate arrival time to San José	
Evening		Farewell dinner at restaurant	
LODGING		Hotel in central valley TBD (1) Tel:	

DAY 15 WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23		DEPARTURE	
Morning		Breakfast or snack, depending on flight time	
		Morning flight departure from SJO airport	