**BIOL 105-901 – Winter Term 2018**

**The Economics of Biodiversity**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Ms. Mary R. Gunther

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**Course Objectives**: This course is designed to help both biology majors and non-majors appreciate the biodiversity of the planet using Costa Rica as an example. The emphasis will be on the methods used to conserve biodiversity while developing the economy. We will examine the methods used on the ground in Costa Rica by visiting national parks, research, agricultural and cultural facilities. Students will develop an understanding of how complex conservation can be. Students will develop or sharpen their skills of scientific observation through guided activities and time on their own to observe. They will maintain a Journal, answering directed prompts as well as recording their own impressions of the day’s activities. In addition to science, the course will include large measures of language, culture, art, history, and a general appreciation for Costa Rica and her people.

**Textbook:** *Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise?* ***Second Edition***; Martha Honey. Assigned chapters and any additional reading will be posted on MyClasses. You **must** get the **Second** Edition!

**Prerequisites:** There are currently no prerequisites for this course other than good standing at Salisbury University. It is hoped that all students will have an enthusiastic attitude and desire to learn about the Biodiversity of Costa Rica.

**My Classes @ SU:** Everyone registered for this class is automatically registered for our campus classroom management system, MyClasses Canvas. This is where I will post your assignments, reading materials, etc. You should be very familiar with this system by now.) You must have access to MyClasses @ SU for this course.

**Journal:** All students will be required to maintain a Journal. You must provide the journal yourself. Examples will be shown at the orientation meetings before the trip. The goal is to create a semi-permanent record of your activities and observations while on the trip. Guide questions will be given at the end of each day. Everything you do and think should be recorded; every single piece of information related to what you are doing should be noted. Sketches, general notes, weather conditions, observations of any and all available data/information should be recorded. Neatness is not a priority. The main priorities are accuracy and completeness.

Your Journal will consist of your daily account, description, explanation, clarification, comments and interpretations of the day’s events. Journal entries are most often made at the end of the day when you are winding down and relaxing in the evening (but not always, it depends on your preference). Each day’s Journal entry should be at least one page but usually are several pages of text. The length of each day’s entry is not important. What is important is that that you and others should be able to “relive” every day of your trip while reading your Journal at some future date.

There are many sources of appropriate notebooks for this purpose. Visit the bookstore and on-line sources to find a notebook that you believe will suit your needs. The Journal is due when we land back in the U.S. I will return them to you when you turn in your course paper after we are back from Costa Rica.

## Paper: Directions for the paper will be distributed before we leave and posted on Canvas. It is due after we return. I will be in my office HS230H Wednesday January 20 between 1:30 and 3:30 PM so you can turn in the paper and collect your journal.

## Alcohol Policy: The legal drinking age in Costa Rica is 18. However since it is 21 here drinking will not be tolerated for those under 21. If you are going on this trip so you can drink please do not sign up. If you are 21 or over, mature and responsible drinking will be tolerated. Mature and responsible means exactly that. Drunkenness and drinking games cannot be tolerated. Please remember that for every single moment of this trip you are an Ambassador representing the United States of America in Costa Rica and that we are guests in Costa Rica. Please behave accordingly.

**Grading:** Your grade for the course will be based on the following 500 points:

**50%** Journal (250 pts.) **20%**Participation /Attitude (100 pts.) **30%**Paper (150 pts.)

**Course Agenda:**

**NOTE: We will have class on Campus at SU before we depart.** Dates and time to be determined. You should be prepared to have several classes while in country. Whether or not we will have class on campus after out return is to be determined.