LAS NUBES SEMESTER ABROAD

INFO SESSION
October 23, 2018
HNES 142
Agenda

• Intro
• Course Info & Fees
• Calendar and case scenarios
• Important Dates
• Requirements
• Disability and Accommodations
Location of Las Nubes and the Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor
Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor

Las Nubes

Los Cusingos
This course centers on the nature and function of narratives as they relate to the construction of subjects, communities and nations. Students analyze local narrative environments, including fiction and non-fiction, community narratives and life stories. Students are also given the option of creating their own narrative based on their experience abroad, while reflecting on the act of telling/ writing as an act of (self) knowledge production and its potential for building archives of memory, articulating communities and fostering empathy.

✓ The course will be taught in English, but students majoring in Spanish will have to complete their assignments in Spanish to receive major credits.

✓ Locations: York University Eco-Campus at Las Nubes; Visits to local bookstores, libraries, and local organizations and communities; San Jose, San Isidro

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on April 28 (Sunday) at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on May 9 (book your flight after 2 PM)
This workshop offers students the opportunity to experience environmental arts that are integral to struggles for food sovereignty in Costa Rica, and to work with key artists on community-engaged artistic productions: mobile murals proclaiming small farmers’ rights against corporate agriculture and youth art projects in a community permaculture garden. The course culminates with artistic participation in the annual Alexander Skutch Festival.

- There are no prerequisites
- **Locations:** York University Eco-Campus at Las Nubes; Field visits and production sites: Farmers’ Market, San Isidro; Longo Mai.

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on May 9 at 2 PM (**must arrive by 2 PM**)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on May 20 (book your flight after 2 PM)
Experiencing, appreciating and recognizing the biodiversity of the tropical forests in the Las Nubes area, while considering the community and environmental education of the region is the intention of this course. By studying the beliefs, theories and practices of naturalists (e.g. Darwin, Alexander Skutch and contemporary Costa Rican scholars), we will critically interpret differing historical narratives and images of nature. In the field, with close observation, students will describe and document the lives of mammals, amphibians, birds, plants, and insects in the Las Nubes area, the greater corridor, and its watershed. The over-arching course goal is to continue to build place-based eco-social knowledge and to translate that learning into critical environmental education initiatives and citizen science for the surrounding, interdependent human and more-than human communities.

- There are no prerequisites
- Locations: York University Eco-Campus at Las Nubes; Alexander Skutch Corridor; Dominical, Sierpe

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on May 20\textsuperscript{th} at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on May 31\textsuperscript{st} (book your flight after 2 PM)
This course will investigate the ecological, cultural and social components involved in protecting habitats to maintain biodiversity. Based at Las Nubes Eco Campus, case studies, readings and field trips will explore various governance issues including conflict, stakeholder interests and collaborations. Measures of successful conservation management will be discussed, including the use of biodiversity indicators. Students will be involved in the design and data collection of local protected area biodiversity monitoring schemes for a variety of taxa through group projects. Some prior knowledge of ecology is expected.

✓ No prerequisites, but some prior knowledge of ecology is expected.
✓ Locations: York University Eco-Campus at Las Nubes; Alexander Skutch Corridor

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on May 31st at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on June 11th (book your flight after 2 PM)
EDUC TBA: Education for a Sustainable Future
Instructor: Steve Alsop
June 12-21, 2019

This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of education for environmental sustainability. It traces approaches from its origins in outdoor, experiential and environmental education to contemporary expressions as an interdisciplinary approach that explores relations between education and social, economic, cultural and environmental justice. The course seeks to attract students with an interest in education and the possibilities and shortcomings that associated policies and practices might offer/foreclose. It draws from selected readings and experiences in Las Nubes to explore ESF (Education for a Sustainable Future) as an open-question for examination within selected social-ecological contexts within Costa Rica and Canada.

- There are no prerequisites
- Locations: York University Eco-Campus at Las Nubes; Alexander Skutch Corridor; San Isidro

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on June 11th at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on June 22nd (book your flight after 2 PM)
In the current times, characterized by innumerable social-environmental crises, it is necessary to explore initiatives that contribute elements to possible solutions. Costa Rica has been considered an international beacon of “Sustainable Development,” partly because of a number of arguably successful social and environmental initiatives. In this course we will engage directly with a diversity of initiatives in Costa Rica at different scales (State, Indigenous Territory, Rural Community, Family Farm, Co-operative, NGO, Grassroots Organization, Local Business, among others) that attempt to bring together elements of environmental conservation and social-economic development in order to achieve improved wellbeing and sustainability. These cases will provide material for discussion and analysis through diverse epistemological lenses, to provide students with a more informed, critical and inspired theoretical approach and praxis to urgent social-environmental issues.

✓ There are no prerequisites
✓ Locations: York University Eco-Campus at Las Nubes; Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor; Aradikes, Salitre; Boruca

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on June 21\textsuperscript{st} at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on July 1\textsuperscript{st} (book your flight after 2 PM)
Las Nubes Biological Reserve
Coopesantos Wind Farm
Los Cusingos (COBAS) Bird Sanctuary
Alexander Skutch Festival
Local Arts and Crafts
Farms in COBAS
Coopeagri
Sustainable Coffee
ARADIKES

- ARADIKES is a non-governmental organization that represents four indigenous groups (The Bri Bri, Brunca, Cabecares and Teribes) in six territories of the Buenos Aires area. ARADIKES's mission is to strengthen indigenous communities in the struggle to defend their rights through grass-roots associations.

- ARADIKES also strives to promote environmental conservation and micro-enterprise economic development.
Boruca
Bri Bri Territory & Salitre
Dominical
Course Fee

- Course fees* include all in-country transportation, room and board, as well as park entrance fees that are part of course programs. Accommodations include a mix of homestays with local families, lodges and hotels.
- Students are responsible for paying their own airfare and getting travel insurance, as well as any personal expenses. Air fare approx. $500 - $800 (York International Mobility Award)
- LA&PS students can apply for funding to cover the course fees. For more information contact Harj Singh, International Engagement Coordinator (harj78@yorku.ca)
- Course fees do not include regular York tuition.

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## Possible Scenarios

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- **Travel day**
- **Narratives in/of Costa Rica: Individuals, Communities, and their Voices**
- **Environmental Arts and Food Sovereignty in Costa Rica**
- **Natural History: Environmental Education in Costa Rica**
- **Protected Area Management in Costa Rica**
- **Education for a Sustainable Future**
- **Conservation and Development for Social-Environmental Sustainability and Well-being**
- **Alexander Skutch Festival**

- **EA**
  - Arrival: May 9, 2019
  - Departure: May 20, 2019
  - CAN$1,200

- **NLA**
  - Arrival: April 28, 2019
  - Departure: May 31, 2019
  - CAN$2,200 plus $$ for 11 extra days for homestay in COBAS or you can make your own plans

- **NH**
  - Arrival: May 31, 2019
  - Departure: July 1, 2019
  - CAN$3,100
Important Dates

1 Mar. 2019
Deposit

Mar. 2019
Summer Term Enrollment

3 Apr. 2019
Final Mandatory Meeting

22–26 Apr. 2019: Orientation sessions for each course (TBA)
Requirements

**ENVS 4446 – Protected Area Management in Costa Rica**:
- All students should have basic familiarity with ecology.

**Undergraduate Students**
- Fill out the eligibility form ([https://fes.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=97966](https://fes.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=97966)).

**Graduate Students**
- Check with your program director (electives).
- Request to enroll in an undergraduate course ([https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/files/2014/08/course-grad-undergrad.pdf](https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/files/2014/08/course-grad-undergrad.pdf)).
March 1, 2019

DEPOSIT
• CAN$100 per course.
• Non-refundable
• Cash
• You can pay:
  ➢ At the end of an information session, or,
  ➢ On March 1: at Bev’s office (HNES 139F) during business hours (8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
• Those who have not check their eligibility on the Las Nubes website will not be able to pay the deposit nor enroll in any of the courses.

Courses are capped.
March 2019

- York University official Summer registration starts at the beginning of the month.
- Notification by email.
- We will send reminders.
Final Mandatory Meeting

• 12-1:30 PM, HNES 142.
• Things to pack
• Risk assessment forms (links on the website)
• York International’s Mobility Award form and instructions
• **Full course fee** must be paid at the meeting. Payments are payable to York University by money order, a certified bank cheque or cash. **No personal cheques.** No exceptions.
April 22-26, 2019

• Several classes will have an orientation session during this week.
  – ENVS 4810A (no session)
  – Other courses TBA
• Download papers and materials for sessions and to take to Costa Rica
• Spanish workshop (free) – Spanish Resource Centre at Glendon
Disabilities & Accommodations

Contact:
Josephine C. Zeeman
Director, Office of Student & Academic Services
Faculty of Environmental Studies
josecamp@yorku.ca
ADVISORY

• Physically and emotionally demanding
• Will encounter spiders and other critters
• Side effects may include:
  – Life transformation
  – Paradigm shifts
  – New passions
  – New understandings
  – New questions
• May not want to come back to Canada!!