ECONOMICS 3323 Costa Rica Eco-tourism Industry
Spring/Summer 2022 - Syllabus

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Credit hours: 3

Learning Objectives
Students will be learn about the Costa Rica eco-tourism industry. Students gain a better understanding of Costa Rican eco-tourism by visiting popular eco-tourism destinations in this country. Costa Rica spends $0 each year on national defense. Instead, they put their resources into maintaining national parks and green spaces which attract international tourists which support their economy. Finally, during their country visit they will be exposed to the value of the dollar and get a better understanding of the role of exchange rates while visiting Costa Rica.

Course Objectives
Students will learn about the Costa Rican economy. In 2018, when accounting for direct and indirect impacts, tourism comprises 8.2% of Costa Rica’s GDP, while generating 211,000 direct tourism jobs or 8.8% of employment in the country (www.trafalgar.com). Costa Rica has protected approximately 28% of its land in national parks, reserves, and wildlife refuges. Just under half of this (12%) is its system of national parks which are dispersed throughout the country (http://web.pdx.edu/~rueterj/courses/casestudies/reserves/costa-rica-story.html). Students will gain a better understanding of the economics of eco-tourism by visiting Costa Rican plantations where farming is occurring.

Recommended Pre-requisite – Econ 2113 or Econ 2133

Agriculture and Tourism readings – (web sites and Journal articles)

Grading
- Attendance/Daily Event participation 25%
- Daily Journal entries 25%
- Costa Rica Economics of tourism paper 25%
- Writing assignment post-trip 25%
- Total 100%

Grading scale:
Daily Event participation/attendance
Students are expected to show-up on-time to each scheduled event, have a positive attitude, and treat all students, faculty, and tour guides with respect. Students are expected to attend all pre-tour meetings. Failure to show up will result in lost points.

Daily journal entries: Students will have a composition book which they will record answers to daily questions in their journal. These questions will revolve around daily economic observations while on tour.

Weather Emergencies: Information is available at the ECU emergency alert website (http://www.ecu.edu/alert) and the ECU emergency information hotline (252-328-0062).

Americans with Disabilities Act
East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Services, located in Brewster A-114, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is (252) 328-6799.

Academic Integrity
All students that violate the ECU Student Honor Code (http://www.ecu.edu/studenthandbook/) will receive an “F” in the course. All violators will be turned over to the Academic Integrity Board.

Research Paper – Post trip
In this paper the student will write about their discoveries and what they learned during their trip as it relates to Costa Rica eco-tourism. In this paper the student will discuss the following:
1. The role of eco-tourism in the Costa Rican economy
2. Observations from the eco-tourism industry. Who was employed? What tasks were they doing? What capital was used?
3. Whether the eco-tourism industry is sustainable in the long-run (50 years from now).
5. Detailed characterization of the current state of eco-tourism industry in Costa Rica (tables/graphs/figures used to support your claims are encouraged).
6. What threats are there to these industries? Any suggestions for improvement?

Both Costa Rica agriculture and Costa Rica eco-tourism papers should begin with a statement that clearly indicates the purpose of the paper. Every paper should have an introduction and a conclusion. These papers should be between 6-8 typed, double spaced, using 11 point font and 1 inch margins. Figures/Tables should appear at the end and not be counted as part of the 6-8 page requirement. Deviations from these paper guidelines will result in a lower grade for your paper.

Course Schedule/Itinerary – Spring/Summer 2022
• Meeting 3:30 – 5pm each Wednesday (15 meetings) in Spring 2022 -learn about agriculture and eco-tourism industries in Costa Rica
• During trip May 12 to May 20: Students travel to Costa Rica – active participation in daily events and evening meetings (approximately two hours interaction each day)
• Post trip: Students write a research paper on their discoveries and what they learned on this trip as it relates to Costa Rica agriculture and eco-tourism. (see above for more details)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Leave Raleigh for San Jose, Costa Rica</td>
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| May 13    | Read “Promoting Green Tourism” | Travel to Braulio Carrillo National Park and Tortuguero  
Evening meeting to discuss – Promoting Green Tourism article & how Costa Rica promotes tourism  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 14    | Read “Agriculture” | Water tour of Tortuguer.  
Evening meeting to discuss agriculture & Costa Rica agriculture  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 15    | Read “Tropical Rain forests” | Travel to Sarapiqui  
Tour pineapple planation  
Evening meeting to discuss tropical rain forests and Costa Rica rain forests impact on tourism  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 16    | Read “Costa Rica’s tropical rain forests” | Travel to Arenal – visit hot springs  
Evening discuss Costa Rica’s tropical rain forests  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 17    | Read “Agriculture, nature conservancy” | Hike around Arenal region, visit coffee planation  
Evening discuss Agriculture and nature conservancy  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 18    | Read “Connections in Environmental science” | Travel to Rincon de la Vieja National Park  
Travel to Guanacaste  
Evening discuss “connections in environmental science”  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 19    | Read “agricultural Costa Rica” | Water tour of Guanacaste bay – snorkel tour  
Evening meeting to discuss – Agricultural Costa Rica”  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| May 20    | Read “about Costa Rica” | Depart Liberia  
In transit – discuss about Costa Rica Economic Sectors  
Journal writing on daily topic |
| Post-trip | Journal writing | Prepare Research Paper Post trip |