

SAN JOAQUIN DE FLORES INSTITUTE

COURSE	Conservation & Ecotourism
CREDITS	3
CLASS HOURS	3 (2:30) (48 total -16 weeks-)
CLASS SCHEDULE	
PERIOD	
COURSE START AND END DATE	
PROFESSOR (include email address)	
OFFICE HOURS	

DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this course is to offer students the necessary knowledge and theoretical-methodological tools to understand and learn about conservation and the importance of a balanced development between natural processes and socio-economic activities linked to ecotourism.

The current background of conservation areas and ecotourism practices in Costa Rica will be studied, along with ecological aspects, biological diversity, life zones, endemism and other important aspects that define our national territory.

It is worth mentioning that the subject of biodiversity will be studied making emphasis on the protection, conservation and restoration of natural resources in our country.

OBJECTIVES:

GENERAL:

The main objective of the course is to provide students with knowledge about the importance of natural resources in conservation areas and the sustainable use of these areas through ecotourism.

In order to understand this, the course will be complemented with field trips, used to put in practice the concepts analyzed in class, as well as the evaluations, presentations and bibliographic research.

SPECIFIC:

- ◆ Promote the biological diversity of the country.
- ◆ Show students the different conservation areas of the country.
- ◆ Be able to differentiate between protected area management categories.
- ◆ Show students how ecotourism is a source of socioeconomic development in our country.

CONTENTS:**Ecotourism**

- A) Concepts
- B) Responsible tourism

Spatial Planning

- A) Conservation areas in Costa Rica
- B) Protected areas

Development of Ecotourism in Conservation Areas

- A) Environmental education
- B) Importance of co-management
- C) Carrying capacity of protected areas

Causes for the biological diversity of Costa Rica

- A) Geological history
- B) Geographic position
- C) Lands
- D) Climatology
- E) Biological aspects

Ecological Elements

- A) Important concepts
- B) Biodiversity
- C) Life zones and ecological associations

D) Main life zones and their characteristics

Endemism

A) Concepts

B) Causes and examples

Threats affecting biodiversity in Costa Rica

A) Causes for ecosystem destruction

B) Endangered species

C) The impact of biodiversity loss

EVALUATION SYSTEM

Two regular exams: 40 %.

Short exams and oral presentations: 30 %.

Two field trips and reports: 30 %.

Total: 100 %.

No.	ACTIVITIES	%	DESCRIPTION
1	First written exam	20%	Includes contents from subjects 1 to 4.
2	Short exams and oral presentations	30%	Presentations and research about Costa Rican wildlife and other related issues (20%) Short exams (10%).
3	Second written exam	20%	Includes contents from subjects 5 to 8.

4	Field trips and reports	30%	Includes technical reports for each one of the field trips. These reports will include the results of the visit to a Protected Area and the bibliographical research performed.
		100%	

NOTE: Attendance to field trips and their respective reports are mandatory. Students who fail to present these reports will fail the course, regardless of the grades obtained in the exams. Additionally, a final grade equal or higher than 7 is required to pass the course.

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE COURSE.

- a. This course is addressed to students who wish to learn about ecology, biodiversity and the current situation of Conservation Areas in regards to Ecotourism.
- b. This course has no previous requisites and has a value of 3 credits that require a minimum of 150 hours/term.
- c. This course is complemented by 2 field trip reports, 2 written exams, short exams and oral presentations.

CHRONOGRAM OF EVALUATIONS:

QUIZ I	
PRESENTATION I	
QUIZ II	
QUIZ III	
PRESENTATION II	
QUIZ IV	
FINAL EXAM	

CHRONOGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:

SESSION No.	DATE	SUBJECT	CONTENT	ACTIVITY