

# Tropical Ecology

EFB523

**Leave the classroom behind and learn about tropical ecology firsthand. Come with us to Ecuador during spring break 2020 and spend 12 days in one of world's true biodiversity hot-spots!**

Ecuador is a living laboratory, with pristine rain forests, fertile volcanic soils, abundant fresh water, and exceptional diversity of plants and animals, many of which are found only there. Ecuador boasts snow-capped volcanoes, spectacular waterfalls, hot springs, and numerous distinct ecosystems ranging from lowland rain forests to cloud forests and high altitude paramo.

The Tiputini Biodiversity Station, jointly directed by US and Ecuadorian universities, provides a unique setting for students and researchers studying the Amazon. It is accessible only by boat, is adjacent to the Yasuni National Park, and is within a UNESCO Biodiversity Reserve.

Students in Tropical Ecology will stay at the station 7 nights and 8 days, which includes labs with internet access and group cabins as well as a cafeteria. An adjacent tower takes you high into the forest canopy, and there are many miles of hiking trails.

Before and after our stay at Tiputini, we will study ecosystems at intermediate [cloud forest and dry forest] and high [paramo] altitudes in the Ecuadorian Andes.

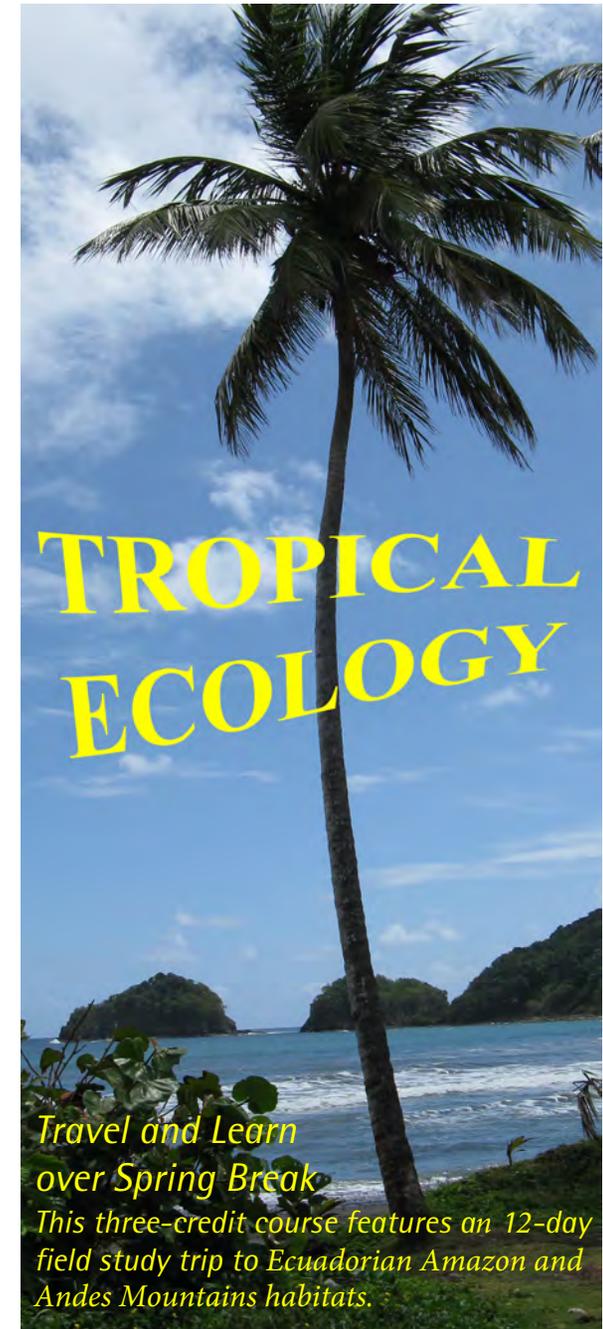


Class of 2018 in Ecuador, with instructors Donald J. Stewart and Martin Dovciak

State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry



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Syracuse, New York 13210



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Department of Environmental and Forest Biology  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

## Experience Tropical Ecology

Students at SUNY-ESF, Syracuse University and other regional colleges are invited to participate in a course that offers an opportunity to experience tropical ecology while learning about it in a uniquely beautiful setting.

The 12 days in Ecuador that form the centerpiece of this course include diverse field trips, including 7 nights at Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and exploration of other ecosystems at higher altitudes in the Andes.

This course begins with a series of weekly lectures that provide an introduction to the tropical environment. Similarly, classes after the trip interweave the students' experiences with the principles of tropical ecology.

For information contact:

Donald J. Stewart at -- djstewart@esf.edu

The objectives of Tropical Ecology are to:

- introduce students to the biotic diversity found in tropical ecosystems and to compare them with northern temperate systems;
- study the interaction between biotic and abiotic factors in a tropical environment;
- familiarize students with resource management options in Ecuador in light of its unique and relatively undisturbed tropical habitats;
- use Ecuador as a model exemplifying certain principles of ecology and resource management that are best demonstrated in a tropical setting.

The class schedule includes weekly 1.5-hour meetings at SUNY-ESF beginning early in the Spring semester, and the field session over 2020 Spring Break, from Wednesday, March 11, through Tuesday, March 24.

**To reserve a place in the class, complete the form at the right and mail it to ESF with your \$200 deposit. Then contact Dr. Stewart at djstewart@esf.edu or 315-470-6924 to continue with your registration. Enrollment is limited, so submit your deposit early!**

The fee of approximately \$2,750 [TBD for 2020] includes:

- round-trip airfare from Syracuse;
- room and board at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station and elsewhere in Ecuador;
- all activities in Ecuador.

Incidentals such as passport, vaccinations, baggage fees, ESF Travel Insurance and meals in transit are not included. If you are not a full-time matriculated student, you also must pay standard SUNY tuition and fees. The course fee may be subject to modest changes due to airfare fluctuations.

Deposit and payments: **Your \$200 deposit must be received before you can register, and all fees must be paid by Friday Jan. 17, 2020, after which airfare is not refundable.**

The course bears 3 credits, undergraduate or graduate. Prerequisites are completion of one year of college biology and a course in general ecology. Qualifies as Field Experience course for undergrads in EFB.

### Tentative Agenda [example Ecuador 2019]

March 6 Travel to Ecuador, overnight near Quito  
March 7 Bus over Andes to Amazon; View altitudinal gradient  
March 8 Boat-van-boat to Tiputini Station; Orientation  
March 9 Guided Rainforest Hikes; Lect.: Amazon Fishes  
March 10 Guided Rainforest Hikes; Lect.: Lowland Rainforests  
March 11 Visits to Canopy Tower; Lect.: Amazon Wildlife  
March 12 Boat Daytime Float-trip; Parrot Aggregation; Swim;  
Lect.: Giant Arapaima Conservation  
March 13 Group Biodiversity Surveys: Trees/Fungi; Night Hike  
March 14 Guided Rainforest Hikes; Night Boat Float-trip;  
Lect.: Montane Paramo Ecosystems  
March 15 Depart Tiputini; View Altitudinal Gradient;  
Evening Soak in Volcanic Hot Springs  
March 16 Montane Paramo; Inter-Cordillera Dry Forest  
March 17 Cloud Forest on Pacific slope, Mindo  
March 18 Mitad del Mundo Cultural Site [Depart 11 PM]  
March 19 Return to Syracuse [Arrive 11 AM]  
[Note: Responsible for your own transport to/from airport in Syracuse]

### Reservation Form – Tropical Ecology

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to register for:  Graduate Credit  Undergraduate Credit

**Enclosed is my \$200 deposit, made payable to SUNY-ESF. I understand that the balance of the course fee (and tuition, if applicable) is due by Jan. 17, 2020.**

Return completed reservation form, with check or money order, to:  
Business Office, 102 Bray Hall  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

This form must be returned to the Business Office along with your deposit before you can register.