Summer Abroad at Las Nubes
Information Session
NOVEMBER 17, 2021
Agenda

• Introduction to Las Nubes EcoCampus
• Course Info and Fees
• Calendar and case scenarios
• Important dates
• Requirements
• Disability and accommodations
Location of Las Nubes and the Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor
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: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Visits to local organizations and communities; San Jose, San Isidro, Buenos Aires

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on May 1 at 2 PM (**must arrive by 2 PM**)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on May 12 (**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:** Las Nubes EcoCampus; 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 12 at 2 PM (**must arrive by 2 PM**)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on May 23 (**book your flight after 2 PM**)
The central problem of the 21st century, argues Stefan Helmreich, will be the “water line,” where longstanding patterns of inequality and discrimination intersect with growing threats to life itself. The rallying cry “Water is Life,” voiced by environmental and anti-extractive movements throughout the Americas and beyond, invokes the water line to build new political coalitions for demanding environmental and climate justice. This course asks students to critically examine and experientially engage with the water line as it has taken shape in Costa Rica and Latin America in order to understand how such coalitions work to counter climate crisis and its disproportionate effects on poor, Indigenous, and Black peoples. Together we will survey the problems that humans and other living beings increasingly face in accessing water, identify the structures and processes that limit access, explore new ways of relating to water, and imagine how we might act on and through these relations. Held at the Las Nubes Eco-campus in Costa Rica, the course involves site visits to bodies of water near the campus and conversations with activists and communities engaged in water politics.

✓ There are no prerequisites
✓ Locations: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Field visits and production sites: Farmers’ Market, San Isidro.

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on May 12 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on May 23 (book your flight after 2 PM)
EDUC 3700 & 5445: Education for a Sustainable Future
Instructor: Steve Alsop
May 24 to June 2, 2022

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: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor; San Isidro

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on May 23 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on June 3 (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: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor; Dominical, Sierpe

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on June 3 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on June 14 (book your flight after 2 PM)

Video
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:** Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on June 14 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on June 25 (book your flight after 2 PM)

Video
Introduction to Ecological Engineering will bring forward the concept of **technological means for ecosystem management, drawn from ecological understanding, in order to minimize the environmental impacts**. The students will learn to use the tool boxes of nature, such as ecosystems, communities, organisms and their immediate abiotic environment. Hence, a solution requiring fewer resources always will be a more ecologically sound solution. H. T. Odum, the father of ecological engineering defined it as the "environmental manipulation by man using small amounts of supplementary energy to control systems in which the main energy drives are coming from natural sources." The students will learn through potential application, such as constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment; environmental remediation; landscape architecture; urban planning; and urban horticulture applications. This course combining theory and experiential learning will advance the quest for a better understanding of the interface between humanity and nature.

- **No prerequisites**
- **Locations:** Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on June 25 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on July 6 (book your flight after 2 PM)
This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop or strengthen their understanding of **social determinants of health from a global perspective**. Participants will engage in critical analysis of social inequities and the health consequences to global populations and will also develop an understanding of the concept of global citizenship. This 10-day intensive course at York University’s Eco Campus will use the Costa Rican context as our port of entry to examine national and global health-relevant issues as we strive to identify how the dynamics of social power – embodied in divisions along the lines of class, gender, race, ethnicity and national origins – shape institutional arrangements, interpersonal relations, and the distribution of resources for health, i.e., the social determinants of health.

- No prerequisites
- **Locations:** Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on July 6 at 2 PM (**must arrive by 2 PM**)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on July 17 (book your flight after 2 PM)
Environmental Psychology is the study of the bi-directional interaction between people and their environments. It includes the effect of natural and built environments on people's well-being and also the impact humans are having on the environment broadly. Environmental psychologists examine people's thoughts, feelings, attitudes, motivation, resistance, and behaviour in relation to environmental factors. In particular, this course will focus on human behaviour and how to encourage pro-environmental behaviour.

- No prerequisites
- Locations: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor

**Arrival:**
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on July 17 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on July 28 (book your flight after 2 PM)
Indigenous peoples are distinct communities who have experienced the processes of globalization in particular ways. Focusing on the experience of Indigenous peoples in Costa Rica, the course examines the **global historical processes of imperialism and colonialism and their legacies of racism, assimilation and marginalization**. The course then examines Indigenous peoples' resistance to globalization and engagement with global networks, movements and institutions, in order to protect their cultures and assert their rights. We will think about these issues in context, by living with and learning from several Indigenous communities in the south of Costa Rica.

- No prerequisites
- **Locations**: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Corridor; Buenos Aires, Salitre, Boruca, Térraba

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

**Departure:**
We will drop you off at SJO on August 8 (book your flight after 2 PM)
ENVS 4810A/6399: Conservation and Development for Social-Environmental Sustainability and Well-being

Instructor: Felipe Montoya
August 9-18, 2022

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.

✓ No prerequisites
✓ Locations: Las Nubes EcoCampus; Alexander Skutch Biological Corridor; Aradikes; Salitre; Boruca

Arrival:
We will pick you up at the San Jose Airport (SJO) on August 8 at 2 PM (must arrive by 2 PM)

Departure:
We will drop you off at SJO on August 19 (book your flight after 2 PM)
Requirements

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Fill out the eligibility form (https://euc.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=97156).

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)

VISITING STUDENTS

- Check with your program director if you are allowed to take our courses and request a Letter of Permission
- Send LOP to lasnubes@yorku.ca
What to expect?
Intensive courses, full of activities
Exposure to local food and culture
Field trips, hiking, bugs and critters
Rain and humidity
Early mornings
Las Nubes EcoCampus

https://lasnubes.euc.yorku.ca/ecocampus/

**Las Nubes Biological Reserve**
Donated by Dr. Woody Fisher (306.411 acres) in 1998

**Lillian Meighen Wright Centre**
Donated by the Lillian Meighen Wright and Don Wright Foundation (6.30 acres) in 2009

**Casita Azul**
La Casita Azul is an education and learning resource centre that supports York’s...

**Conservation Area (Squirrel Monkey...**
Lilian Meighen Write Centre (LMWC)
Las Nubes Biological Rainforest
CoopeAgri Sustainable Coffee
Los Cusingos, Bird Sanctuary (Tropical Science Centre)
Farms in Southern Costa Rica
Alexander Skutch Festival
ARADIKES/CEDIN 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/CEDIN also strives to promote environmental conservation and micro-enterprise economic development.
BriBri Territory and Salitre
Uvita
Dominical
Coopesantos Wind Farm
Cloudbridge
Course Cost

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Program fees include all in-country transportation, room and board, as well as park entrance fees that are part of course activities and programs.

Accommodations are in homestays with local families.

* Applies only for ENVS4810B and GEOG4050 (Scenario B, next slide)

**AIR FARE** ($600 - $900)

Minus York International assistance (YIMA) ~$400-500

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

All students are required to purchase travel insurance through GuardMe. Further instructions will be provided at the mandatory session.

**TUITION**

Depends on your program and whether you are an undergrad or grad student sfs.yorku.ca/fee s/courses
Las Nubes Study Abroad
2022 Calendar

**COURSE FEE – POSSIBLE SCENARIOS**

**A**
- Arrival: May 1, 2022
- Departure: May 12, 2022
- CAN$1,300
- 3 credits

**B**
- Arrival: May 12, 2022
- Departure: May 23, 2022
- CAN$1,800
- 6 credits

**C**
- Arrival: May 12, 2022
- Departure: June 14, 2022
- CAN$2,400 plus cost for 11 extra days for homestay in COBAS or you can make your own plans
- 6 credits

**D**
- Arrival: July 6, 2022
- Departure: August 19, 2022
- CAN$4,200
- 12 credits
Important Dates

- Check your eligibility
- Deposit (deadline)
- Orientation sessions for each course (check website for updates)

- March 2022
  - Fall/Winter
  - 15 March 2022: Summer term enrollment starts
  - 4 April 2022: Final Mandatory Meeting
- 25–29 April 2022: Orientation sessions for each course
**Important Dates**

**SAVE YOUR SPOT**
**MARCH 15, 2022**

› Pay a deposit of CAN$200 per course between now and the deadline date, you can book a time at lasnubes@yorku.ca:
  - Pay in person (certified bank cheque or money order – cheques are payable to ‘York University’)
  - Pay by phone (with a credit card)
› Non-refundable
› Courses are capped to 25 and spots are considered on a first come first serve basis

**SUMMER ENROLLMENT BEGINS** (**MARCH**)

› York University official Summer registration starts at the beginning of the month.
› Notification by email
› We will send reminders

**FINAL MANDATORY MEETING**
**APRIL 4, 2022**

› 10-11:30 A.M.
› Things to pack
› Pre-departure Portal:
  - Risk assessment forms
  - Waivers
  - York International’s Mobility Award form (instructions)
› Full course fee must be paid before noon. Payments are payable to York University by money order, a certified bank cheque or credit card. **No personal cheques. No exceptions.**

**COURSE ORIENTATION SESSION** (**APRIL 25-29, 2022**)

› Several classes will have an orientation session during this week (updates on the website_..._.
› Download papers and materials for sessions and to take to Costa Rica
› Spanish workshop (free) – Spanish Resource Centre at Glendon (tba)
Disabilities & Accommodations

Contact:
Josephine C. Zeeman
Director, Office of Student & Academic Services
Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change
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!!