

Tentative Itinerary

Friday, May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mid Afternoon Departure from Fort Lauderdale b. Afternoon Arrival in San Jose c. Bus transfer to Volcano Arenal (3 hours) d. Check-In to the Volcan Lodge e. Individual Arrangements for Dinner
Saturday, May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel b. Tour of Volcano Arenal National Park c. Tour of Chayote/Pineapple/ Plantation d. Group Dinner at Tabacon Resort
Sunday, May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel – Check-Out b. Bus transfer to Café Brit (Coffee) c. Check-In to the Crowne Plaza Corobici d. Afternoon Lecture – Dr. Rhodd
Monday, May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel b. Morning Visit: Conair de Costa Rica c. Mid Morning Tour to Baxter/MERCK/Pfizer d. Afternoon visit to Mineral water or Brewery
Tuesday, May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel b. Morning INTEL/SYSDE c. Mid Morning Visit to TeleTech d. Afternoon Visit/ Lecture at INCAE Business
Wednesday, May 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel b. Morning Lecture: U.S. Embassy c. City Tour, Lunch and Shopping d. Afternoon Lecture: CINDE
Thursday, May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel b. Morning Visit: ICE c. Afternoon – Free (School Donation)
Friday, May 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Breakfast at the Hotel b. Check-Out of Hotel c. Transfer by Bus to San Jose Airport for return to Florida

Field Study in International Economics

Costa Rica

ECO: 6958 - Summer 2010

Dr. Rupert Rhodd and Dr. Eric Chiang

Overview

The Field Experience in International Economics (Costa Rica) course is an instruction and tour program that studies production and allocation of resources in Costa Rica. The course focuses on business and economic development in Costa Rica.

The course looks at the organizational frameworks related to resource allocation in Costa Rica, the role of the international economy (through the operation of multinational corporations and the conduct of international trade and finance), and the importance of cultural differences in business development and practices. This course will help students gain a better understanding of:

- How exchange rate markets operate
- How business practices differ in developed and developing countries
- The importance of international capital flows, trade, and migration to economic development
- Comparative advantage in international trade
- The operation of free zones

This course is designed to increase students' knowledge of Central America and in particular, Costa Rica, through instruction, field trips, and independent research. It will also help to develop basic techniques of research writing.

Additional information: www.ericchiang.org

Course Outline

► Pre-trip Lectures and Meetings:

- Saturday, April 10, 2010
Lecture: Overview of Latin and Central American Markets
LA 332 (Davie Campus): 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Saturday, April 24, 2010
Lecture: FDI and Currency Markets in Latin America
LA 332 (Davie Campus): 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

► Pre-Trip Assignment

All students are expected to become as familiar as possible with Costa Rica before traveling to Costa Rica. To ensure that this happens, all students taking part in this course are expected to write an overview on Costa Rica. Although this is a course conducted in the "C" session of the summer term of 2010, students are expected to complete the pre-trip assignment during the spring term of 2010. This assignment must be submitted electronically by Saturday, May 1, 2010 and should be at least 8 pages.

► Field Experience: May 7-14, 2010

Students must attend all lectures, presentations, and tours in Costa Rica. Students are expected to keep a journal of activities and lectures as these are to be used and included in the final paper for this course. The field experience will include lectures covering the following areas:

- Business Development in Costa Rica
- International Political Economy and DR-CAFTA
- The Service Sector: Distributional Activities in Costa Rica
- Environment and Eco-Tourism
- Manufacturing Sectors of Costa Rica
- International Monetary Arrangements, International trade and Growth in Costa Rica
- The Free Zone, Foreign Direct Investment and Development in Costa Rica

Course Outline

► Final Research Paper

Using the information gathered on the tour as well as information obtained from agencies, international databases, academic journals, and other sources, students will write a full length paper of at least 25 pages excluding title page and references. The final paper is due on or before July 24, 2010.

Students may choose to complete their final research paper on a topic assigned by the professors or may write on another topic related to economic or business development in Costa Rica. It may be best to get approval of the topic by the professors.

While most of the information for the research will come from a journal that each student is required to keep while on tour, students must supplement this information with additional resources including but not limited to: academic journals, company and agency websites, and databases.

Because this is a graduate course, students are expected to write a paper on a topic related to international economics and/or international economic development in Costa Rica. Papers in the form of journal activities on the tour are unacceptable at this level. All papers will be tested for plagiarism using SafeAssign Software. Evidence of plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Additional details regarding this assignment will be provided in the form of a "Writing Guide" that will be distributed after the trip.

► Course Grading:

Attendance at April 10 and 24 Lectures	15%
Pre-Trip Assignment	20%
Attendance at Trip Tours and Lectures	25%
Final Paper	40%

A	100 – 95%	C	77 – 74%
A-	94 – 90%	C-	73 – 70%
B+	89 – 88%	D+	69 – 68%
B	87 – 84%	D	67 – 64%
B-	83 – 80%	D-	63 – 60%
C+	79 – 78%	F	59 – 0%