



Nature's Business: Galapagos Islands
CBA 316/IND 316: Spring 2018
January 2018 Travel

Instructors:

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Introduction: This interdisciplinary course seeks to provide a unique educational experience for students to examine the relationship between economic, legal, biological and environmental concerns. Using the Galapagos Islands as our focus, we will study the special environment and ecosystem there and examine the ways in which this environment is threatened and protected. Ecuador and its Galapagos Islands contain not only a diverse range of ecosystems, flora, fauna and geology, but also an equally wide range of policy responses in an attempt to protect and conserve this unique environment. We also will examine the tourism industry in the Galapagos from financial, marketing and sustainability perspectives. We will begin our exploration of these topics in **four three-hour pre-departure classes** at Rider during the Fall 2017 semester. We will continue our adventure in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in January 2018 and will meet once during the Spring 2018 semester for three hours.

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Explain the relationship among economic, legal, biological and environmental concerns.
- Critically evaluate the ways in which the natural environment and its ecosystems are both threatened and protected by business and regulatory practices in the Galapagos Islands
- Assess the tourism industry in the Galapagos from financial, marketing and sustainability perspectives.

Course Requirements:

Attendance, Participation & Homework	20%
Written Pre-Trip Report & Presentation	
Report	5%
Presentation	5%
Participation, Journal & Reflection Paper	25%
Research Paper/Science Project	
Paper/Project	35%
Presentation	10%

1. **Attendance, Participation and Homework:** Attendance is mandatory at all pre- departure classes and at all scheduled activities in the Galapagos Islands. Students who fail to attend all of these classes and activities will NOT receive credit for the course. You are expected to have read, and be prepared to discuss, all assigned readings. You must also complete the written homework assignments for each class session. Your attendance and participation in all scheduled classes and activities and your homework will constitute 20% of your course grade.
2. **Written Report and Presentation:** To prepare for the trip, you will be divided into groups, with each group responsible for researching and critically evaluating from both business and science perspectives one aspect of our itinerary and sharing findings with the entire class. Each student group must draft a 3-5 page written report of their findings and make a 15-minute presentation to the entire class. The written paper will constitute 5% and the oral presentation will constitute 5% of a student's course grade.

3. **Trip Participation, Journal and Personal Reflection Paper:** While in the Galapagos Islands, you will keep a daily journal in which you will reflect upon your experiences and respond to directed questions that we will pose (see sample journal guidelines). You will also be expected to participate in all discussions. At the end of each site visit, you will complete a Site Visit Questionnaire (see guidelines below). Upon the conclusion of the travel portion of the course, you will complete a Personal Reflection Paper (see guidelines below). Your journal, personal reflection paper and participation will constitute 25% of your course grade. Journals and Reflection Papers will be due on or about February 14th.
4. **Research Paper or Science Project.** You are responsible for either: (a) drafting a 12-15 page (typed, double-spaced) research paper on a topic related to the course content; or (b) completing a science project related to the course content. The appropriate instructor must approve all research paper/science project topics. Your paper or project will constitute 35% of your course grade. Research papers/projects will be due on or before March 24th. You will also present your findings to the class during our post-trip class during the Spring 2018 semester. Your oral presentation will constitute 10% of your course grade.

Course Logistics: While in the Galapagos Islands, we will experience various modes of transportation. On several days in the Galapagos we will be traveling by yacht to our destination island(s) for the day while on other days we will be walking or taking vans.

Please be aware of a few important characteristics of the travel associated with the class that should be considered in light of each student's individual medical and physical conditions. First, during the trip there is significant, although not overly strenuous, physical exertion as a part of the daily routine. Students will be walking, hiking, swimming, and climbing (light). While most of this activity is not strenuous, even the most moderate activity can be significant given possible high temperatures. Furthermore, while on the yachts, students should be aware that the yacht may experience moderate to high seas. You may want to take medication appropriate for long-term travel at sea.

Students should also be aware that Ecuador has very strict non-exportation regulations governing the transportation of plants, animals and any natural material out of the Galapagos Islands. Although students will be expected to respect any natural environment we will be traveling through, students will be expected to follow the particular rules for all visitors to the Galapagos Islands, as provided by the National Park Service of Ecuador:

- No plant, animal, or remains of such (including shells, bones, and pieces of wood), or other natural objects should be removed or disturbed.
- Be careful not to transport any live material to the islands, or from island to island.
- Do not take any food to the uninhabited islands, for the same reason.
- Do not touch or handle the animals.
- Do not feed the animals. It can be dangerous to you, and in the long run would destroy the animals' social structure and breeding habits.
- Do not startle or chase any animal from its resting or nesting spot.
- Stay within the areas designated as visiting sites.
- Do not leave any litter on the islands, or throw any off your boat.

- Do not deface the rocks.
- Do not buy souvenirs or objects made of plants or animals from the islands.
- Do not visit the islands unless accompanied by a licensed National Park Guide.
- Restrict your visits to officially approved areas.
- Show your conservationist attitude.

Schedule of Classes & Sample Readings

Please note that a final selection of course readings will be distributed at the first pre-departure session.

First Pre-Departure Session: (Newman) Friday, September 22nd: 6:00 - 9:00 PM Introduction to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands: History, Government, Economy and People

Reading Assignment:

Review the Galapagos National Park website: http://www.galapagospark.org/index.php?set_lang=en

Introduction to Ecuador & The Galapagos Islands: <http://www.geographia.com/ecuador/index.htm>

Second Pre-Departure Session: (Husch) Friday, October 13th: 6:00 – 9:00 PM -- Charles Darwin and the Galapagos; Ecosystems on Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

Reading Assignment:

Chapter 17 in Journal of Researches: Voyage of the Beagle:
<http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/d/darwin/charles/beagle/chapter17.html>

Smithsonian magazine 12/2005 - The evolution of Charles Darwin

The Michael Jackson Galapagos field guide:
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1895176409/michaeljacksonsg>

Third Pre-Departure Session: (Newman): Friday, November 3rd: 6:00-9:00 PM
Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands as a Tourist Destination; Place Marketing; Ecotourism; Student Presentations

Reading Assignments:

Galapagos Unbound, New York Times, Neville, 8 January 2006.

Ecotourism: A Brief Introduction - Case to be distributed in class on October 11

Marketing Tourism in the Galapagos Islands: Ecotourism or Greenwashing?, International Business & Economics Research Journal, 9(6), June 2010.

Fourth Pre-Departure Session: (Husch): Friday, December 1st: 6:00-9:00 PM Geology of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands; Student Presentations

Reading Assignment:

This Dynamic Earth, Kiou & Tilling, Preface, Historical Perspective and the associated sidebars entitled “Inside the Earth”, What is a tectonic plate?,” “Understanding Plate Motions, Hotspots, and Plate Tectonics and People”.

<http://www.geo.cornell.edu/geology/Galapagos.html>

POST-TRIP SESSION:

TBD in April: 6:00-9:00 PM — Reflection & Student Presentations of Research Papers

KEEPING A JOURNAL

Below are some guidelines for your journal. Remember that your journal, personal reflection report and site visit questionnaires will comprise 20% of your final grade. Take time each day to write in your journal; otherwise, the task may become too overwhelming.

You will be a participant/observer on several islands and in some small towns. What do you see going on? How are the people dressed? Are people friendly to strangers? How do people interact? Notice the architecture, the way the streets are laid out, the traffic patterns, and the natural environment. Would you be comfortable as an American studying or living here? What kinds of problems are you having if you don't know the language?

At the end of your visit in each location

- How did you spend your free time? Do you feel that you got to know the location?
- What was your opinion of the food, the hotel, and the transportation?
- Would you like to visit these places again? Why or why not?
- Analyze our tour operators in terms of their “eco” practices. Were we good “eco-tourists”—why or why not?

At the end of the trip

- How do residents of the Galapagos view their relationship with their natural environment? Do they have a different perspective than many Americans?
- How did it feel to be an American in another country?

ORGANIZATION/SITE VISIT QUESTIONNAIRE

Please review this Questionnaire prior to each site visit. At a minimum you should complete one Questionnaire for our visit to the Darwin Research Institute and one for each island.

Your Name: _____

Organization/Site Name: _____

Date/Time of Visit: _____

Name(s) of Presenter(s)/Guide: _____

1. What did you learn about this site?

2. What were the site's biggest challenges?

3. What procedures, if any, has this site and the provider of our mode of transportation instituted to limit its "environmental footprint"?

PERSONAL REFLECTION PAPER

Upon our return, you will draft a Personal Reflection Paper (no more than 3 typed, double-spaced pages) in which you will respond to the following questions:

- a. What amazed you?
- b. What disappointed you?
- c. What concerned you?
- d. What struck you emotionally?
- e. What did you think of the people you met? Socially? Professionally?
 1. Did you like them?
 2. Trust them?
 3. Feel comfortable with them?
- f. How did your social, moral, religious, and personal values compare with the culture of the Galapagos and with the people that you met?
- g. How did this trip impact your understanding of the trends and forces affecting sustainability and environmental protection efforts world today?
- h. What is important to the people of Galapagos in relation to their environment?
- i. What similarities and differences did you find between the culture of the Galapagos and the United States with regard to the environment?
- j. What are the major forces of change in the Galapagos and what do those forces signify for the future?
- k. What do you envision your professional role to be over the next 20 years? How, if at all, has this trip impacted your vision of your career and/or personal future?