

# Research Experience in Panama

Environmental Science (ENV SCI 499/799)

**Course Description:** This travel course provides science majors with an opportunity to conduct faculty guided field research in tropical rainforests and Panama's Caribbean coast. Preliminary classroom instruction (available as an independent study project for all students) will be offered during fall semester to provide a general background in tropical ecology and Central American culture and history.

Instructor/Assistant	Office	Telephone	email
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## Recommended Texts:

- Coates, Anthony G. (Ed.). 1999. Central America: A Natural and Cultural History. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.
- Kricher, J. and W. E. Davis. 1999. A Neotropical Companion. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.
- McCullough, David. 1978. The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914. Simon & Schuster
- Royte, Elisabeth. 2001. The Tapir's Morning Bath: Mysteries of the Tropical Rain Forest and the Scientists Who Are Trying to Solve Them. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Grading:** Grade will be based on attendance at pre-trip lectures (25%), participation in online reading discussions (25%), participation in field research projects (25%), and a field journal with daily entries with at least 1 entry posted to our blog (25%). Students taking the course for graduate credit will be expected to complete a paper or presentation at the UW-Green Bay Academic Excellence Symposium or the annual Cofrin Center for Biodiversity Student Research Symposium with extensive quantitative analysis and literature review.

**Meeting Times:** We have tentatively scheduled to meet on Thursdays from 6-8 pm several times before we leave.

<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Oct. 22 (tentative)	Course introduction and logistics	
Nov. 5	Introduction to Panama	Cha 1 and 2: Neotropical Companion
Nov. 19	Terrestrial rainforest ecology: Spiders, possums, bats	Cha 3, 4,: Neotropical Companion Cha 4: Central America
Dec. 3	Engineering: The Canal and the Dam	Path Between the Seas: chapters TBA
Dec. 10	Caribbean coastal ecology: Benthic surveys,	Cha. 11 Neotropical Companion <b>The biogeography of lower Mesoamerican freshwater fishes (pdf)</b>
Dec. 17	Final advice about trip preparation	Appendix: Neotropical Companion
Jan. 2	Pre-trip gathering (packing, etc.)	Cha 1-4 Tapir's Morning Bath
Jan. 4 – Jan. 17	- trip to Panama -	
TBA	Post trip party and slide show	

Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay provides appropriate and necessary accommodations for students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aides or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2671 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and to arrange for the provision of services.