



CONSORTIUM FOR SUSTAINABILITY
EARTH University, Costa Rica
Summer Program
2015

Courses offered in **Session I (May 17 to June 13, 2015)** *

- **Tropical Forest Carbon Management: Tools for Protecting Rain Forests and Mitigating Climate Change.**

Michigan State University professor David Skole, PhD.

This course will focus on the application of climate change science and carbon cycle science to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable development through the methods of carbon management in agro-forestry. The course will be heavily centered on the emerging carbon markets and how carbon conservation in natural forests and carbon sequestration in agro-forestry on farms can be used as development strategies. Students will be introduced to carbon accounting methods through class-room and field exercises. The course will cover both the scientific issues surrounding carbon and climate in tropical forests and the details of how carbon trading markets work. Students will be given practical information on how to develop agro-forestry carbon projects and register these projects with carbon markets. The MSU Carbon2Markets model (www.carbon2markets.org) will be introduced to students to demonstrate the linkages between: 1) carbon measurement, reporting and verification methods and tools, 2) ecosystem services through the lens of carbon, 3) carbon markets and payments for ecosystem services, and 4) carbon value chains derived from carbon financial markets.

- **Making Agriculture Sustainable: Understanding Challenges and Finding Solutions.**

EARTH University professor Freddy Gamboa, MAB.

This course includes activities in which students will explore ways to improve human welfare, increase productivity, as well as reduce environmental impacts. It is designed for undergraduate students from any major interested in learning about the principles of sustainability and strategies to promote it. Students will be exposed and become familiar with a variety of tropical agro ecosystems and will spend part of the course getting involved in field projects and visiting farms dedicated to different agricultural goods, with different intensity of exploitation of natural resources, and evaluate their impact from a sustainable standpoint (environmental and socio-economic aspects). Additionally, they will have the opportunity to visit and interact with nearby communities and learn about the challenges they face.

* Students are required to register for both courses of session I. The investment per session for 2015 is **\$4,400**, which includes: teaching, room and board, on-campus services, local transportation, and administrative fees. Not included: airplane ticket, international health insurance, personal expenses, and any additional study abroad fees from your home institution.

** An optional intensive Spanish course will be offered during the week prior to or after Session I at an additional cost.



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Courses Offered in **Session II**

Part I: (June 21 to July 4, 2015) *

- **Engaging Rural Communities: Tools and Methodologies for Sustainable Development**
University of Florida professor Gerald Culen, PhD.

This course provides an overview of methods of investigating and analyzing community issues and how to engage citizens in scientific, technological, environmental and societal issues at the community level. The course will prepare the students in the implementation and evaluation of methodologically correct research that will aid in the resolution of issues and improve their decision making skills as they relate to community issues and sustainability. As part of the course students will investigate and evaluate a community issue of interest and engage community participants in the development of actions plans that will help in the remediation of the selected issue.

Part 2: (July 5 to July 18, 2015) *

- **Tackling Environmental Issues: How to Measure, Manage, and Mitigate Our Impact.**
EARTH University professors Jane Yeomans, PhD; Irene Alvarado, PhD; Viviana Gutierrez, MsC.

This course provides a theoretical foundation and the practical tools for the study of business and other human activities in a global context. It seeks to ensure that externalities are valued in the economic context of the enterprises, and considered in the decision-making process. It explores different methodologies of evaluating sustainability and of assessing the social and environmental impact of our actions as individuals and companies. The course offers students an opportunity to identify and directly assist in the development of decisions to control, mitigate, and compensate for the environmental and social impacts of businesses and individuals. This is a 3 credit course.

*Students can register for one or both courses of session 2. The investment per course for 2015 is **\$2,200**, which includes: teaching, room and board, on-campus services, local transportation, and administrative fees. Not included: airplane ticket, international health insurance, personal expenses, and any additional study abroad fees from your home institution.

** An optional intensive Spanish course will be offered during the week prior to or after Session I at an additional cost.