Environmental Studies Field Trip *to* Belize
January, 2013
ENV STDS 395 & BIO 360: 3 credits

Approaches to Resource Management of Tropical Ecosystems

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Time: Fall Interim 2013: January 2 – 21, 2011

Texts:

Required
•Course packet/Guidebook

Recommended
•Belize Field Guide: Birds (laminated); Rainforest Publications
•Belize Field Guide: Reef Fish (laminated); Rainforest Publications
•*Belize, Travelers' Wildlife Guides*, Les Beletsky, Academic Press, 2004

Suggested extra reading
Barcott, Bruce. 2008. The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw: One Woman's Fight to Save the World's Most Beautiful Bird. Random House.

Rabinowitz, Alan. 2000. Jaguar: One Man's Struggle To Establish The World's First Jaguar Preserve. Island Press.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your participation during the course, and on your field notebooks/journals.

Course Objectives:
1) To study the diverse ecosystems of Belize.
2) To study Belize culture, particularly as it relates to natural resource issues and the relationship between nature and culture.
3) To critically analyze a variety of environmental issues, including natural resource management and ecotourism.
4) To acquire skills in ecological observation and field work.

Tentative Schedule:

Date	**Location**	**Topic/activity**
2 – 4 Jan (Wed – Fri)	Oshkosh	• Lectures and Orientation prior to departure for Belize, 3 hr/day • Packing walk-through, **January 3, 9 am** • Snorkeling Orientation, Albee Pool **January 4, 11 am**
5 Jan (Sat)	Oshkosh –> Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Belize	• Depart Oshkosh, **2:45 am** • Arrive Philip Goldson International Airport in afternoon (AA #2189 @ 3:30pm) •-Evening: Lecture about mammals of Belize/introduction to Belize Zoo or lecture on Monkey Bay and life in BZ (dependent on availability)
6 Jan (Sun)	Monkey Bay	• *Morning*: Belize Zoo • *Afternoon*: Cox Lagoon trip with packed dinner
7 Jan (Mon)	Monkey Bay	• *Morning:* Bird Banding at Runaway Creek • *Late morning:* Guest Lecture (Birds without Borders) • *Afternoon:* Community Baboon Sanctuary • *Evening:* Guest lecture on Ethnobotany by Colin Young
8 Jan (Tues)	Monkey Bay -> Mountain Pine Ridge (MPR)	• *Morning:* Travel to San Ignacio with stop at Ixchel Botanical Gardens • Lunch in San Ignacio, visits markets • *Evening*: Arrive at Mountain Pine Ridge, Discussion of day's activities
9 Jan (Wed)	MPR	• Trip to Caracol (Mayan ruins)
10 Jan (Thurs)	MPR -> Monkey Bay	• Visit Bull Run Plantation in the Mountain Pine Ridge - *or* Big Rock hike and Rio Frio cave • Stop in San Antonio to visit Mayan gift shop • Return to Monkey Bay
11 Jan (Fri)	Monkey Bay	• *Morning*: free time • *Afternoon*: hike through the sanctuary to the river for swimming • *Evening*: Prepare for Sibun River Trip, Drumming Group
12 – 14 Jan (Sat – Mon)	Sibun River	• watershed processes (Guest Lecturer **Kimo Jolly**) • 2 night camping trip along the Sibun River
15 Jan (Tues)	Monkey Bay -> Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve	• Travel to Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve • St. Herman's Cave, Blue Hole National Park • *Evening:* lecture from Belize Audubon on management of protected areas over their 37-year history and night hike

16 Jan (Wed)	Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve	• *Morning:* Visit banana plantation • *Afternoon*: Mayan Museum in Maya Centre • Night hike on Wari loop trail
17 Jan (Thurs)	Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve -> Tobacco Caye Marine Station	• Hike to Tiger Fern and waterfall (geology overview)
18 – 20 Jan (Fri – Sun)	Tobacco Caye	• Introductory lectures • Explore reef ecosystems, sea grass beds, mangrove lagoons
21 Jan (Mon)	Tobacco Caye -> Oshkosh	• Travel to Oshkosh • 7am water taxi to Dangriga for transport to international airport (AA #2160 @ 12:30p)

Equipment: We will be traveling through varied countryside (jungle to coral reef). Temperatures will generally be warm (70's to 80's); be prepared for rain (& mud) while in the jungle and sun on the caye. Light-weight, quick drying clothing is best. We expect that there will be an opportunity to do laundry approximately one week into the trip.

_____ Field Notebook/journal (hard-back like a field notebook or bound composition book)
_____ Water Bottle (approximately 1 liter)
_____ Mask, snorkel, and fins
_____ Binoculars (recommended, not required)
_____ Camera (with enough film/memory cards; recommended not required)
_____ 1 pair of sturdy walking shoes and 1 pair Tiva-type sandals or AquaSox
_____ Rain jacket
_____ Day pack for transporting gear
_____ Bathing suit
_____ Towel (thin, light-weight)
_____ Sunscreen (SPF 30-60, waterproof)
_____ Sun glasses
_____ Hat for sun protection
_____ Flashlight
_____ Insect repellant (remember you can't take aerosol cans on planes)
_____ Plastic garbage bags (for wet, dirty clothes)
_____ Ziploc bags, gallon-size for keeping important things dry
_____ 4 to 5 shirts (at least 1 collared shirt, 1 to 2 long-sleeved shirts)
_____ 2 to 3 pairs long pants (protection from sun and bugs, conversion pants are useful)
_____ 1 to 2 pairs shorts
_____ Socks and underwear
_____ Personal toiletries & medications
_____ Eyeglasses/contacts (if needed; spare pair recommended)
_____ Personal first aid kit (band-aids, antibiotic ointment, Pepto-bismol tablets, etc)