

Conservation Biology in Ecuador

BIOL-240, Spring 2020

Ecuador



TRAVEL COURSE INFORMATION

Please note, dates and travel fee cost are subject to change until roster is finalized

Estimated Dates May 22-June 4, 2020

On this summer travel course we will study conservation biology in one of the most biologically diverse countries on the planet. We will visit the Andean Dry Forest, Antisana Highlands, a Cloud Forest, and the Amazon. In each location, we will compare and contrast the biodiversity, examine the major threats facing each ecosystem, and discuss the actions needed to protect and restore biodiversity. We will examine how ecological dynamics, climate change, historical events, and land management practices have altered species and ecosystem health. While at a scientific field research station in the Amazon we will have the opportunity to participate in original scientific research studies.

\$

Travel Fee includes round trip airfare, shared accommodation, most meals in country, travel and health insurance, all academic and cultural excursions. Items not included are personal passport fees, visas, international cell phone data, personal spending, laundry and additional luggage.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online by October 15

There are a select number of Simmons scholarships designated for undergraduate students enrolling in a Faculty Led Travel Course. **Scholarship applications are due October 15.**

Upon acceptance, a \$400 deposit is due November 15 to confirm your participation

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Open to all undergraduates

This course is open to COF Students

4 credits: As general Simmons policy, traditional full-time undergraduates admitted after Fall 2017 who take greater than 18 credits will be charged per credit for any credit over the 18 credit maximum. Simmons travel courses are 4 credits each and appear on the Spring semester transcript. Students must plan wisely for the Spring semester travel course, in order to avoid credit overload charges.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Matthew Schwartz, Ph.D

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I joined the Simmons faculty as a full-time Lecturer in the Biology Department in January 2018. I am currently teaching Anatomy and Physiology and Human Development and Genetics at Simmons. I also serve as a PLAN advisor to first year students. I have previously taught at Clark University, Emmanuel College, and Harvard University.

I received my PhD in Genetics and Genomics from Harvard University in 2016, where I directed independent and collaborative research in limb development and vertebral patterning. I received my bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Northwestern University in 2009. After a brief postdoc, I have been pursuing a career in undergraduate education and I am passionate about science education and science communication.