

Jamaica

Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Winter Intersession • Dec. 27, 2011-Jan. 5, 2012

Course Name:

Tropical Marine & Field Biology: Jamaica

Course Numbers: **BIO 527/627**

Credit hours: **3**
(undergraduate or graduate)

Location: **Bluefields, Jamaica**

Course Highlights

Students will become familiar with the wildlife, ecology and conservation of Jamaica through participation in 10 days of intensive field studies.

The Program Director and local experts will provide orientations pertinent to each day's field excursions, which will include coral reef, tropical river, swamp, mountain forest and beach habitats.

Students will reside in a local fishing community adjacent to the Bluefields Bay Marine Sanctuary, for which they will collect ecological data. Field activities will involve hiking, boating, scuba diving, snorkeling and swimming in some of the island's most spectacular natural settings.

Estimated Cost: **\$2,000**

Includes: airfare, ground transportation, boat fees, guide and activity fees, lodging, meals and Study Away student fee. Separated costs not available.

Excludes: MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit; passport fees; misc. personal expenses

Nonrefundable deposit due with Program Application by Oct. 1, 2011:
\$300 (will be billed to your student account)

Balance due by Nov. 30, 2011: \$1,700

Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher**. Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Information Meetings: TBA

Pre-Travel Class Meeting: TBA

Depart Springfield for Jamaica:
Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011

Depart Jamaica for Springfield:
Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012

Post-travel Class Meetings;
Presentations & Journals Due:
9 a.m.-noon
Tues.-Thurs., January 10-12, 2012
Temple Hall 107

Interested in going?

Contact Program Director Dr. Daniel Beckman, Professor of Biology: 836-5980 or DanielBeckman@missouristate.edu for more information.



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

An EO/AA Institution

Study Away!

Missouri State University Study Away Programs
Jim D. Morris Center for Continuing Education, Suite 403
301 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806
P: 417-836-6368 • E: studyaway@missouristate.edu
W: <http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/>

Course Objectives

- To familiarize students with the flora, fauna and diverse ecosystems of the third largest island in the Caribbean
- To collect ecological data for the Bluefields Bay Marine Sanctuary
- To provide an introduction to sustainable fishing and conservation practices

Course Overview

Program participants will carry out 10 days of field studies in Jamaica. Activities will include boating, wading and snorkeling for observation of coral reef, seagrass, beach, mangrove, swamp and riverine ecosystems. Students will collect data to be used toward management of Bluefields Bay Marine Sanctuary. Hiking excursions will be made in tropical forest ecosystems for wildlife and environmental observations.

While in Jamaica, the Program Director and guides will give orientation presentations pertinent to each day's field excursions. Lodging in Jamaica will be in coastal cottages in a local fishing community, where students will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of local culture in relationship to the environment.

The final three meetings will be on the MSU campus in Springfield. During these meetings, students will give presentations relaying information on assigned topics from the field studies and Internet research.

Course Schedule & Itinerary

Tues., Dec. 27, 2011 - Fly from Springfield to Montego Bay, Jamaica; meet local guide, travel by bus to Sunset Cottage in Bluefields on Jamaica's west coast

Wed., Dec. 28, 2011 - Wed, Jan. 4, 2012

We will stay each night at cottages on Bluefields Bay. Dinners of local cuisine will be prepared for us at the Cottage each evening. Excursions will be made each day, either by foot locally, by boat in the bay or by van to other locations. These will include:

- Boat trips in Bluefields Bay and surrounding areas to snorkel at coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves
- Coastal mangrove swamps and protected sea turtle nesting beach
- Black River and swamp boat excursion, wildlife viewing and swimming
- May Field Falls river hike, wading and swimming
- Negril sandy beach and rocky coast



- Scuba diving on coral reefs in Bluefields Bay Sanctuary (non-divers will snorkel)
- Bluefields Community hiking tour; fishing docks and subsistence farming
- Cockpit Country mountain forest wilderness area in Jamaica's interior; hiking and bird watching

Thurs., Jan. 5 - Bus trip from Bluefields to Montego Bay airport; fly to Springfield

9 am-noon, Tues., Jan. 10 - Thurs., Jan. 12 - **Post-travel Class Meetings:** Discussion of Jamaica conservation issues and student presentations on topics developed during the travel component and expanded through Internet research. Journals written during the study away will be due.

Course Credit & Requirements

The course is taught as Field Biology, BIO 527 (undergraduate) or BIO 627 (graduate) for 3 credit hours. Prerequisite: Introductory biology course or permission of instructor.

Required Texts: none

Assessment of Learning

Students will be graded on:

- 1. Participation in classroom and field activities**
- 2. Field journal** to be kept with daily entries on natural history, ecological and environmental observations relative to that day's field activities
- 3. Powerpoint presentation** on a selected topic related to Ecology or Conservation and Wildlife of Jamaica

Application & Payment Procedures:

Missouri State University students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on program application. A **non-refundable deposit of \$300** will be billed to your student account upon application. The balance of the program cost will be billed to your account on Nov. 30, 2011.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- Students who withdraw prior to Dec. 2, 2011 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$300 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after Dec. 2, 2011 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$300 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after Dec. 5, 2011, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The program will be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 12 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.