Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program      Spring Break      March 6-14, 2015

Caribbean Cruise

Course Name: **Cruising the Land of the Maya II**
Course Number: **GRY 470**
Credit Hours: **2** undergraduate

Course Objectives
The principle objective of this course is to illustrate some of the methods and techniques for collecting and processing field data in Geotourism Geography. During the course, students will evaluate the tourism facilities, programs, and environment in Belize, Honduras, Mexico, and Texas. This course will teach students the components necessary to conduct evaluations of tourism destinations and their economic and environmental impact on the destination. The research focuses on the geography of the MesoAmerican Reef system, and compares and contrasts their Geotourism initiatives and the impact that cruises have on the islands. Through field tours in the area students will examine topics such as culture, heritage, politics, planning, historical development of trade and community, tourism facilities, potential sources of tourism and physical geography. The course will examine the beginnings of tourism planning and development from the perspective of the Port of Call and the Cruise Lines.

**Program Fee:** $1,605

**Program Fee Includes:** Round-trip MSU van transportation to/from Springfield/Houston, accommodations in Houston, seven night cruise, all meals onboard & entertainment, tour of Johnson Space Center, shore excursions at all Ports of Call, shipboard gratuities, applicable taxes and port charges, trip cancellation insurance, Study Away fee, and medical insurance. Separated costs not available.

**Program Fee Excludes:** Meals to/from Houston, tips to shore excursion personnel, personal expenses, and $408 MSU tuition for 2 hours of undergraduate credit.

**Online applications are due by October 31, 2014. A nonrefundable deposit of $350 will be billed to your student account.** To apply, please:
- Visit the Study Away website at international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/
- Choose Apply Now
- Search for a Program (under Apply for a Study Away Program)
- Choose Simple Search
- Type Caribbean under Program Name
- Choose Cruising the Land of the Maya II
- Choose Apply Now

**Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid**
Students may apply for the College of Natural and Applied Sciences Study Away scholarship. Applications are due to the Study Away office by November 15, 2014. Please see the scholarship page on the Study Away website. Additionally, students who receive financial aid may apply aid to this program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Pre-Travel Meetings:
- January 28, 2015
- February 25, 2015

Application Due:
- October 31, 2014
- Depart for Houston:
- March 6, 2015
- Depart for Springfield:
- March 14, 2015

Must be 21 or older to participate.

Interested in going?
Contact the Program Director, **Linnea Iantria**, Department of Geography, Geology, and Planning:
(417) 836-4486
Liantria@MissouriState.edu

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 Schedule & Itinerary**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

At each Port of Call, students will be involved in full day excursions to nature based tourism destinations. Through visits in Ports of Call, students will have opportunities to see Geotourism initiatives in action. Tours are individualized for this group and are designed in cooperation with local governments and NGOs. Visits will provide a perspective of the challenges facing these various countries with the advent of mass cruise tourism.

**PRE-TRAVEL MEETINGS**

Schedule subject to change.

**January 28, 2015:** Organizational Meeting from 5-7pm to discuss the cruise and learn about the destinations.

**February 25, 2015:** Final meeting to go over procedures, discuss Ports of Call and Shore Excursions.

**STUDY TOUR**

On-board and Port of Call sessions:

**March 6, 2015:** Depart via MSU Vans from campus around 9:00am, arriving Houston, Texas around 8:00pm. Overnight in Houston.

**March 7, 2015:** Breakfast at hotel. After Breakfast vans will travel to the NASA Johnson Space Center for a three hour tour of the facility. After the tour the vans will travel to the Port of Houston where we park the vans and board the Norwegian Jewel cruise ship.

**March 8, 2015:** This is a full free day at sea. Learn about the ship, and enjoy the feeling of sailing across a turquoise sea. We will have a short class meeting at 3:00pm in a place to be advised. There will be many activities during the day that are complimentary and remember that all meals are included in your cruise price.

**March 9, 2015:** Our first Port of Call is the island of Cozumel in Mexico. We dock this morning at 8:00am. At 10:00 am we will meet a representative of MARTI (The Meso American Reef Tourism Initiative) who will tell us all about the various projects going on to reduce the impact of mass tourism on the coral reef. After the talk, we have reserved a private boat just for our group. We should return to the ship around 3:00pm. Time for shopping for souvenirs in the large shopping center on the dock before the ship sails at 5:00pm.

**March 10, 2015:** Today we have a fascinating day planned. The ship sails into Belize City, Belize at 8:00am. At 9:00am will disembark for our sightseeing tour (included with tip). A tender transfer to Belize City and an enjoyable boat ride take you several miles inland by way of the scenic Olde Belize River. En route you may see iguanas, several varieties of birds, crocodiles and howler monkeys. At Burrell Boom, a quaint settlement on the riverbank, you’ll be served a tasty local lunch (included) with refreshments at The Olde River Tavern, located on the banks of the Olde Belize River. You’ll then board your tour bus and drive to Altun Ha (Mayan for ‘Rock Stone Water’), where Dr. David Pendergast of the Royal Ontario Museum uncovered the famous jade head Kinich Ahau. We should return to the ship by 4:00pm and the ship sails at 6:00pm.

**March 11, 2015:** This morning another unusual adventure. We dock this morning on the Honduran coast at Trujillo. We arrive at 8:00am and sail at 4:00pm. We’ll visit the Campo del Mar Nature Park. Enjoy a complete Campo del Mar Park experience including beach time and a delicious buffet lunch. Explore 22 acres of the Nature Park where you’ll meet the resident wildlife and more.

**March 12, 2015:** Full day at sea to enjoy the sailing experience. We’ll have a tour of the ship and enjoy all of the ship’s activities.

**March 13, 2015:** Our last day at sea! Today we meet in the afternoon for a tour of the galley to see how food is prepared, 5-6 times per day for more than 2,500 people! We will also have a wrap up meeting in the afternoon and enjoy our last night on the ocean under the stars. Your luggage will have to be outside of your stateroom this evening for offloading in the morning.

**March 14, 2015:** Breakfast is served this morning as we dock in Houston at 8:00am. Depending on how fast things progress, we will disembark no later than 10:00am. We’ll take the shuttle bus to the parking lot and pick up the vans and head north. Our plan is to drive straight through, arriving back in Springfield around 7:30pm.

**POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETING**

Focus group regarding program evaluation and recommendations.

**Course Credit & Requirements**

Pending successful completion of these components, students will receive a letter grade based upon:

- **Log:** At the end of the study tour, each student is expected to turn in a detailed journal relating to all the field trips. The journal should not just list the events of the day and the places visited but also offer each student the opportunity to reflect on how the topics that were studied relate to the concept of tourism development and sustainability.
- **Active Participation:** It is needless to say that all students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class period and actively participate in class discussions.
- **Paper:** A 5-7 page paper will be due 3 weeks after the end of the cruise on a choice of subjects pertaining to the cruise experience

**Required Text:** None Required

**Application & Payment Procedures**

Missouri State University students and others who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on the program application.

**MSU Students:** A non-refundable deposit of $350 will be billed to your University account upon application (deadline Oct. 31, 2014). You will receive a final billing on Dec. 15, 2014, for the balance of the program fee ($1,255). MSU course tuition ($408) will be billed to your University account separately and is due according to the university payment plan.

**Visiting Students:** A non-refundable deposit of $350 must be paid through the Study Away Storefront on or before Oct. 31, 2014. The balance of the program fee ($1,255) must be paid through the Study Away Storefront by Dec. 15, 2014. MSU course tuition ($408) is due by Feb. 6, 2015 and must be paid at the bursar’s office or on-line through my.missouristate.edu.

In order to ensure participation in this Study Away program, each student must pay the entire program fee by February 13, 2015. Alternatively, a student may show proof of the financial aid that will pay for the fee. If a student does not pay the program fee, or does not show proof of financial aid that is sufficient to cover the fee, the student will be withdrawn from the Study Away program, dropped from the course, and his/her cruise reservation will be canceled. Visiting students must also fully pay the tuition amount by February 13, 2015 in order to stay enrolled in the program. Estimated program fees are 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% if rates increase before or during travel.

**Cancellation & Refund Policies**

If the program is canceled due to lack of participants, students will receive a full refund of all monies paid. If a student wishes to withdraw from the program for any reason, s/he must submit a written notification of withdrawal to the Program Director and the Study Away Director; the date of withdrawal will be the date the notification is received by the Study Away Office. The 15% deposit and any monies already spent on behalf of the student wishing to withdraw will not be refunded. Additional monetary penalties for withdrawal will be outlined in the program flyer. Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office. Should the student need to cancel due to illness or injury of him/herself or an immediate family member, the cruise portion of the trip is refundable, less processing fees.

- **The cruise line has penalties as follows:**
  - No penalty if cancelled by 12/20/14
  - Between 12/20/14 and 1/5/15 - $250
  - Between 1/6/15 and 2/2/15 – 50% of cruise cost
  - Between 2/1/15 and 2/16/15 – 75% of cruise cost
  - From 2/17/15 – No refund

**Estimated program fees**

- **Full day at sea to enjoy the sailing experience.**
  - $350