Course Name: **Field Biology: Galapagos Islands**

Course Numbers: **BIO 527, BIO 627**

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

**Course Overview & Objectives:**

This program is to carry out field studies during an extended field trip to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America to educate students about the wildlife, ecology, and conservation of the area.

Students will spend a week exploring the flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands. Tours will be made of various islands of the archipelago to view terrestrial and marine wildlife and discuss conservation issues and the ecological and historical significance of the region. Tours will include the Charles Darwin Research Center and Cotopaxi National Park.

**Program Fee:** **$4,175**

**Program Fee Includes:** Round-trip international flights and all local transportation by motorcoach or boat. All overnight stays in hotels. All Breakfasts and dinners while in Ecuador/Galapagos, 3 lunches on Galapagos; entrance fees to museums, parks, and other facilities; and Study Away Student Fee. Separated costs not available.

**Program Fee Excludes:** MSU tuition for 3 hour of undergraduate credit; passport fees; transportation to Springfield airport; airline baggage handling fees; tips for guides and drivers, meals during international flights, 4 lunches while in Ecuador, snacks, beverages, and other personal expenses.

**MSU Study Away Application and $75 fee due: February 13, 2013.** (Will be billed to your student account)

**EF College Study Tours Enrollment Form and $95 Enrollment Fee due: February 13, 2013** (The balance of the program fees will be billed direct by EF College Study Tours).

**The Study Away Scholarship and Financial Aid**

Students may apply for the Study Away scholarship to study abroad during winter intersession 2013, spring 2013, and summer 2013 terms. The scholarship is need-based for full-time MSU degree-seeking students with a minimum 3.0 GPA enrolled in an approved Study Away program. Students must complete the scholarship application by February 19, 2013.

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.

**Interested in going?**

Contact the Program Director, Daniel Beckman, at danielbeckman@missouristate.edu or 836-5980 for more information.

Early application is strongly advised.

Course is limited to 14 students (minimum 6).
Course Focus & Objectives
During the travel component lectures (16 hours) will be given by the Program Director and experts in the Galapagos and Ecuador. There will be an additional 3-4 hours per day of organized activities during the travel component (total 25-30 hours). Post-travel classroom lectures and presentations (9 hours) will be given on the MSU campus.

STUDY TOUR

May 20, 2013
Depart Springfield for Quito, Ecuador. Upon arrival, students will tour culturally and historically significant sites in Quito.

May 21, 2013
Discuss the culture and science of the region during excursions in Quito.

May 22, 2013
Fly to Baltra Island and travel by boat to Santa Cruz Island. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Center to discuss his research and theories. Fieldwork to view local wildlife.

May 23, 2013
Travel by boat to Barolome Island or Isabela Island to observe local marine wildlife while snorkeling.

May 24, 2013
Travel by boat to North Seymour or Floreana Island to observe wildlife and discuss conservation issues.

May 25, 2013
Return from Santa Cruz Island to Quito. A discussion of marine conservation.

May 26, 2013
Excursion to Cotopaxi National Park to view the volcano and wildlife that calls the park home. Discuss the geology and conservation of the region.

May 27, 2013
Depart for Springfield.

May 27, 2013
POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETINGS
The following sessions will be held on the MSU Springfield campus.

May 29, 2013, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Post-trip lecture and presentations. Discuss Charles Darwin, the Theory of Evolution, and the Galapagos Islands.

May 30, 2013, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Post-trip lecture and presentations. Discuss Galapagos Island terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

May 31, 2013, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Post-trip lecture and presentations. Discuss conservation and management issues in the Galapagos Islands and coastal Ecuador.

Course Credit & Requirements
Students must fulfill the academic requirements for the course as outlined below on a pass/fail basis:
• Field Journals: Students will keep daily journals on observations concerning biology, ecology, or conservation of the Galapagos and/or surrounding areas (33% of final grade)
• Powerpoint and Presentation: Students will prepare a Powerpoint presentation to be presented orally to the class at post-trip meetings. Topics will be on some aspect of biology, ecology, or conservation of the Galapagos and/or surrounding areas (33% of final grade)
• Participation: Students will be graded on participation in field trip activities and classroom meetings. Grade will be determined based on attendance, punctuality, motivation, interest level, and class discussion (33% of final grade)

Required text: A textbook is not required.

Application & Payment Procedures
MSU Study Away Application due by Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013 - Students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on the program application, available at the Study Away website and through the Program Director, Stanley Lesure. The non-refundable MSU Study Away Student Fee of $75, which covers your International Student Identity Card, will be billed to your student account upon application.

EF College Study Tours Enrollment due by Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2013 - Once your MSU Study Away application is approved, you must complete the program enrollment form at www.efcollegestudytours.com/enroll. A non-refundable Enrollment Fee of $95 must be paid at this time. The balance of program fees will be billed directly by EF College Study Tours through an automatic monthly payment plan. You may choose to have payments deducted from your checking account or charged to your debit or credit card.

For MSU Students: All programs require a non-refundable deposit of $75 which will be billed to the students’ University accounts upon application. Course tuition will be billed to students’ University accounts and will be due according to their University payment plans.

For Visiting Students (non-degree-seeking students, including students enrolled at another institution, post-baccalaureate students, and other interested community members): Visiting students must submit their $75 non-refundable deposit (by check or money order) to the Study Away Office by the application deadline in the program flyer. Course tuition will be billed to the students’ University accounts and will be due according to their University payment plans.

Cancellation & Refund Policies
Students who wish to withdraw from the program must do so through EF college Study Tours. Participants should become familiar with EF College Study Tours Booking Conditions 2013 (www.efcollegestudytours.com/bc); this document includes details of payment, cancellation, and refund policies. Students who withdraw by April 15, 2013 will receive a partial refund; no refunds will be issued after that date.

A written notification of withdrawal must also be sent to the Program Director, Daniel Beckman, and Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403.