

Jamaica



Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Summer Intersession • May 21-30, 2012

Course Name:

Tropical Marine & Field Biology: Jamaica

Course Numbers: **BIO 527/627**

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

Location: **Bluefields, Jamaica**

Course Overview & Highlights

Students will become familiar with the wildlife, ecology and conservation of the marine, coastal and inland ecosystems 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 observation of coral reef, seagrass, beach, tropical river, mangrove swamp and mountain forest ecosystems.

Field activities will involve hiking, boating, scuba diving, snorkeling, wading and swimming in some of the island's most spectacular natural settings.

Students will collect ecological data to be used toward management of Bluefields Bay Marine Sanctuary and will stay in an adjacent fishing community, where they will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of local culture in relationship to the environment.

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

Includes: Airfare; ground transportation, lodging & meals in Jamaica; guide fees, gratuities, rental of field gear & admission to field trip sites; Study Away student fee. Separated costs not available.

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

Nonrefundable deposit due with Program Application by Fri., Feb. 10, 2012: \$300
(will be billed to your student account)

Airfare billed Wed., Feb. 29, 2012: \$800

Balance billed Fri., April 20, 2012: \$900

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 Meeting(s): **TBA**

Pre-Travel Class Meeting(s): **TBA**

Depart Springfield for Jamaica:
Mon., May 21, 2012

Depart Jamaica for Springfield:
Wed., May 30, 2012

Post-travel Class Meetings;
Final Presentations Due:
9 a.m.-noon
Mon.-Wed., June 4-6, 2012
Temple Hall 107

Interested in going?

Contact the Program Director,
Dr. Daniel Beckman, Professor of Biology:
DanielBeckman@MissouriState.edu or
836-5980



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 the human impact on ecosystems and to sustainable fishing and conservation practices

Course Schedule & Itinerary

Pre-travel Class Meeting(s): TBA

Lectures and presentations will cover:

- Ecosystems and wildlife of the Caribbean and Jamaica
 - Marine: open ocean, coral reef
 - Coastal: mangrove, marsh, beach
 - Freshwater: river, floodplain
 - Terrestrial: mountain forests
- Jamaica Ecological History and Culture
 - History and the environment of Jamaica
 - Cultural and environmental issues in Jamaica
- Briefing on travel, logistics, and safety

Field Study in Jamaica (itinerary may be modified as arrangements are finalized and based on weather conditions):

Mon., May 21, 2012 - Depart from Springfield airport; arrive Montego Bay, Jamaica; meet local guide, travel by bus to Sunset Cottage in Bluefields, where we will stay.

Tues., May 22 - Wed., May 30 - Guided 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
- Scuba diving on coral reefs in Bluefields Bay Sanctuary (non-divers will snorkel)
- 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
- Bluefields Community hiking tour; fishing docks and subsistence farming
- Cockpit Country mountain forest wilderness area in Jamaica's interior; hiking and bird watching

Wed., May 30 - Bus trip from Bluefields to Montego Bay airport; fly to Springfield



Post-travel Class Meetings - 9 am-noon, Mon., June 4 - Wed., June 6, Temple 107:

Student Powerpoint presentations on research topics; review of ecological and biodiversity observations from study away

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 the Program Director.

Assessment of Learning

Grades will be based on the following:

- **Participation** - Each student is expected to actively participate in all classroom and field activities. (33%)
- **Field Journal** - Each student is expected to keep a species check list and a detailed field journal, noting natural history, biological, ecological, environmental and conservation observations relative to each day's field activities. Students may submit hand-written journals in a bound note book or folder, or retype into a Word document upon return. (33%)
- **Powerpoint Presentation** - Combining field study and Internet research, each student will prepare a 15-minute Powerpoint presentation over a topic related to Ecology or Conservation and Wildlife of Jamaica. Potential research topics will be selected prior to travel, and final presentations will be given at the post-travel class meetings. (33%)

Optional Reference Texts (not required; copies will be available in Jamaica):

- Reef Creatures Identification: Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas by P. Human & N. Deloach
- Reef Fish Identification Guide: Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas by P. Human & N. Deloach
- Reef Coral Identification Guide: Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas by P. Human & N. Deloach

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 (due by **Feb. 10, 2012**). Airfare (\$800) will be billed on **Feb. 29, 2012**, and the balance of the program cost will be billed to your account on **April 20, 2012**.

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 **April 9, 2012**, 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 **April 9, 2012**, 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 **April 9, 2012**, 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 may be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 12 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.