

ASU STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

COSTA RICA

& CENTRAL AMERICAN STUDIES

THREE WEEK PROGRAM
FIRST SUMMER SESSION

May 25-June 16, 2013

6 credit hours + G & SB
Social Sciences & Spanish



Sign up at:

<https://studyabroad.asu.edu/?go=CostaRicaCentralAmStudies>

Faculty Director: Dr Kristin Koptiuch, Associate Professor of Anthropology

New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, ASU at the West Campus (602) 543-6031 koptiuch@asu.edu

OVERVIEW The **Costa Rica & Central American Studies Program** offers students an extraordinary intercultural immersion learning opportunity by combining an intensive language course and family homestay, with interdisciplinary study of Central America through social & behavioral science perspectives, field study, and excursions around beautiful tropical Costa Rica. The dynamic capital city San José is host site. Frequent excursions—including two weekend trips—enable students to observe and experience what they study.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM Students must register for two courses: Spanish and Central American Studies (6 credits total)

1) **SPA 494 Spanish in Costa Rica** Intensive language study in small-class & immersion environment. Instructors are native Spanish speakers. Lessons integrate social issues and are offered at **beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels**.

2) **Central American Studies** (ASB 356, GCU 356, POL 354, SBS 356, *or* SOC 356), an interdisciplinary social sciences course that explores geographic, political, economic, and socio-cultural issues pertaining to Costa Rica in the wider context of Central America. Receives **General Studies** credit for Global Awareness and Social & Behavioral (G & SB).

WHY COSTA RICA? With its remarkable history, rich heritage, and diverse population, Costa Rica's active participation in today's globalized world makes it an exemplary case to study and explore many of the current challenges and dilemmas facing Latin America. Guest experts from Costa Rican universities engage students in regional issues such as colonial and postcolonial history, plantation economies and transnational trade relations, political ecology of rainforest preservation, regional migration and ethnic relations, the social dynamics of the urban environment, and vibrant cultural practices. Workshops with noted Costa Rican performers enhance students' appreciation of regional culture (e.g. dance class, Caribbean music, poetry, local outings). A final project gives students the opportunity to conduct their own ethnographic fieldwork in San José.

FIELD TRIPS make our studies come alive to enhance our understanding of the region. These include two weekend excursions to **BOTH COASTS**—to a tropical rainforest preserve in Manuel Antonio on the Pacific coast, and to the beautiful Caribbean coast in Limón province and a trek to an indigenous community in Talamanca. Several day trips explore the country's historical capital in Cartago, banana, coffee, chayote plantations, urban markets, museums, city neighborhoods, etc.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS Housing with Costa Rican families gives students abundant exposure to Costa Rican society and culture. Host families provide breakfast, dinner, laundry service, and a real sense of family belonging.

Program activities immerse students in the local culture and present opportunities to practice Spanish language skills.

ELIGIBILITY Program is open to students who have junior standing by end of Spring 2013 and minimum GPA 2.50. **ALL MAJORS WELCOME**. Prior Spanish *not* required.

PROGRAM FEE \$4,495 Includes: ASU tuition, housing with host families, breakfast & dinner, airport transit in San José, international medical insurance, and two weekend field trips to both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, and additional program local field trips. **Not included:** Roundtrip airfare to Costa Rica, lunches, books, passport & application fees, airport exit fee (\$28), personal and other incidental expenses.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS may be available, contact the ASU Study Abroad Office.

PROGRAM WEB PAGE

<http://www.west.asu.edu/koptiuch/CostaRicaProgram/>

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[Costa Rica & Central American Studies summer study abroad program](#)

CHECK OUT videos of previous year's program!

www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=1939842070E1407F

(or search YouTube for: koptiuch costa rica)

GET YOUR PASSPORT EARLY !