Costa Rica is one of the oldest democracies in the American Continent. Within only a 4 hour direct flight from Charlotte, NC the country is home to 4% of the world’s total floral and fauna species. Even though the country has managed to create a large national park system to protect its natural resources (25% of the country’s territory is protected) there are still many critical challenges that remain unresolved. JOIN US in this unique opportunity to discover, learn and get engaged!

Contact Information:

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With just over 51,000 km² in territory, Costa Rica is one of the most exotic countries that you can ever visit. Blessed by beautiful beaches, volcanos, biodiversity, and a unique culture and political system devoted to the protection of natural resources, the country offers a perfect setting for studying social, economic, and cultural aspects interactions with natural resources. This course will take you to a large variety of rural, and urban settings to learn about water management, ecotourism, agribusiness, biology, forestry, and wood products issues. Experiential teaching methods will give students the opportunity to reflect on the past, present, and future of natural resources in a developing country and their relationship to other localities such as the United States.

**Program at a glance**

**Dates:** Spring 2014. Class meets once a week.

**Excursion to Costa Rica:** 9 days during Spring Break

**Credits:** 3, open to all majors.

**Housing:** Various locations, double occupancy.

**Costs:** $2,650. Including airfare, local transportation, housing, daily meals, and exit taxes. Tuition and fees not included.

Consult your department and the OIRED office for SCHOLARSHIPS!

**Tentative itinerary for the Excursion:**

- Day 1. Departure to SJO.
- Day 2. Visit to Irazu volcano and afternoon lectures.
- Day 3. Morning lectures, wildlife refugee, and hot springs.
- Day 4. Waterfall, sky bridges, and zip lines.
- Day 5. Travel to Coyote Beach.
- Day 6. Visit to flooring company and forest plantation.
- Day 7. Free day at the beach.
- Day 8. Return to SJO.
- Day 9. Return to USA.

**Apply online here:**

http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu

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