

Summer Study Abroad in Costa Rica Program: Course Description
Program Dates: May 16 to July 11, 2020 (tentative dates)
Date submitted: 8/14/19

The Summer Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica offers up to twelve credit hours upon completion of the requirements of four courses. Latin American Culture and Civilization course (substitutes SPAN 363) and Introduction to Hispanic Literature course (substitutes SPAN 353 for minors only), are taught by Truman faculty members Dr. Óscar Sendón and Dr. Matthew Tornatore at the Costa Rica Language Academy (CRLA), located in the capital city of San José. Instructors from the CRLA will teach several other courses: Spanish Grammar and Composition SPAN 330, Advanced level of Grammar and Composition-SPAN 450, Spanish Conversation-SPAN 340, and Advanced Conversation-SPAN 440. These instructors hold Master's Degrees and specialize in teaching these skills to second language students who attend the academy from all over the world.

Students have six (6) contact hours (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) of instruction four (4) days a week (Monday through Thursday) at the Costa Rica Language Academy in Grammar, Composition, Conversation, Latin American Culture and Civilization, and Latin American Literature. CRLA will be in charge of organizing the instruction, testing, and final grades for the courses in Grammar, Composition, and Conversation courses (6 credit hours). Truman faculty members will be in charge of providing a list of the textbooks for CRLA instructors to use, as well as provide the syllabi to be followed by these instructors for these courses. Truman faculty will also be in charge of organizing the instruction, testing, and final grades for the Literature and Culture/Civilization courses, as well as be an integral part of the designing of the overall study abroad calendar of classes and weekend excursions in conjunction with the CRLA providers.

Grammar and Conversation courses are offered exclusively in Spanish in separate levels of proficiency equivalent to Truman's. Placement testing is done by the CRLA. All four classes will use the textbooks and syllabus program designed by Truman faculty members.

- 1) Intermediate level
 - a. SPAN 330 Spanish Grammar and Composition
 - b. SPAN 340 Spanish Conversation
- 2) Advanced level
 - a. SPAN 440 Spanish Conversation
 - b. SPAN 450 Spanish Grammar and Composition
- 3) 300-level
 - a. SPAN 353 Introduction to Hispanic Literature
 - b. SPAN 363 Latin American Culture and Civilization

The Latin American Culture and Civilization course (CRC 363) is equivalent to our SPAN 363. According to the Truman catalog description, this course is a study of the cultural, historical, sociological, and political aspects of Latin America from the pre-conquest era to the present. The Introduction to Hispanic Literature Course (CRC 304) is equivalent to our SPAN 353. According to the catalog description, this course is a comprehensive introduction to literary criticism and overview of significant figures in Latin America in which students read representative works from various literary genres for class discussion in Spanish to master the use of literary analysis skills through the writing/revision process.

In addition, students participate in the native culture daily by living with a host family, by taking educational field trips to various parts of the country, including four (4) different trips on the weekend (Arenal, Monteverde, Manuel Antonio, and Tortuguero), plus three (3) local cultural visits (city tour of San José, surrounding museums, and Irazú Volcano, Orosi Valley, Lankaster Gardens, and by taking part in many other group activities.

The total number of contact hours that students have while in Costa Rica is two hundred ten (210) classroom hours, eighty-plus (80+) additional hours of instructional touring, and approximately forty-plus (40+) additional hours of free time on tours.

- **GENERAL ITINERARY FOR SUMMER STUDY IN COSTA RICA 2020**

- **Saturday, May 16th:** Departure from each student's hometown / flight(s) to San José, Costa Rica; Afternoon arrival in San José / Meet Prof. Sendón and Prof _____ at the airport / Transfer to host families via chauffer service provided by CRLA
- **Sunday, May 17th:** Rest and unpack; spend time getting to know CR host families; explain how to arrive to CRLA either by bus or walking
- **Monday, May 18th:** Leave in the morning accompanied by CR host families to the CRLA; orientation conducted by CRLA staff
- **May 18-21:** First week of classes; each instructor discusses the syllabus, text, requirements, and begins instruction. Tours will also be discussed
- **Friday, July 10th:** Free day to pack and get ready to leave; final family time
- **Saturday, July 11th:** Flights home