

Minnesota State University Moorhead

BIOL 335: Tropical Field Biology

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 2

Lab Hours/Week: 3

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Two lectures per week during the spring semester discuss general concepts of ecology applied to tropical ecosystems. Topics covered include: global climate patterns that produce tropical conditions, evolution of biodiversity, rain forests, cloud forests, dry forests, mangrove swamps, coral reef ecology, principles and application of conservation biology to tropical flora and fauna, and balancing human resource use with habitat preservation and restoration. The "lab" component of this course is a mandatory, 10-day class trip to Costa Rica over spring break. In Costa Rica, students and faculty spend 4 days in an ecolodge in dry forest in Cabo Blanco on the Pacific Ocean, another 4 days in cloud forest near Monteverde. A special fee is required to cover the costs of travel, food, and accommodation. Prerequisite: one course in the sciences. MnTC Goal 10.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 10/30/2005 - 09/01/2017

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

None

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

None

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted