

UGalápagos courses, Fall 2012, Biology semester

Through an academic partnership with the Isabela Oceanographic Institute, located in the small community of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island in the Galápagos, the University of Miami will offer a full semester of courses (17-20 credits) in Fall 2012, based in the Biology Department. The courses will be taught sequentially over the term, and students will reside with families on the island.

Course descriptions with proposed BIL course numbers appear below. These descriptions have been shortened for inclusion in the UM Bulletin, as mandated by the College Curriculum Committee, but there's no reason to use these on the UGalapagos web site if you'd prefer the longer descriptions.

BIL 325 Herpetology in the Galapagos, 3 credits (HON, WRI) Tosney
Evolution and natural history of the living reptilian products of natural selection in the Galapagos. Lectures and intensive fieldwork focus on adaptations to demanding environmental pressures that drive natural selection in the charismatic reptiles of the Galapagos. Prerequisites: BIL 250 or permission of instructor

BIL 332 Ecology and Land Use in the Galapagos, 3 credits (WRI) Janos
Fundamental principles of ecology manifested on Isla Isabela will be employed to evaluate land usages including subsistence and production agriculture, animal husbandry, fuel wood and timber, and conservation with ecotourism. Habitats, flora, and fauna from the vicinity of Puerto Villamil to the rim of Volcán Sierra Negra; analysis of agricultural practices and problems of the mist zone on this volcano's southeastern flank. Prerequisites: BIL 250 or BIL 255 or permission of instructor

BIL 432 Ecology in the Galapagos, 3 credits Horvitz
Organisms in relation to their environment, with a focus on interactive hands-on learning experiences that connect empirical nature with abstract thinking. Lectures, discussion and fieldwork on ecosystem ecology, plant dispersal and colonization; organisms' responses to spatial and temporal variability in their environments, plant/animal interactions. Origins and effects of invasive species and actions of bio-control agents. Prerequisites: BIL 332 or permission of instructor

BIL 433 Conservation in Practice,

3 credits Besserer

Intersection between economic development, science and conservation in one of the world's most pristine and fragile ecosystems. Exploration of how tourism offers an alternative to unsustainable fisheries that once drove the local economy, yet has created a new set of pressures on the people and the environment. Mitigation efforts, science, and international conservation mesh with an understanding of local politics, customs and cultures. Prerequisite: BIL 432 or permission of instructor

APY 405/ECS 272 (W): Galápagos Political Ecology (3 credits), Meltzoff

This field course offers you a rare chance to examine human interactions in a highly politicized landscape of conservation. You will learn historical development and contemporary issues of Latin America from an interdisciplinary perspective, through the cultural, political and social lens of the Galápagos.