

Woodsworth College and School of Environment

University of Toronto Summer Abroad 2021

## An Introduction to Ecuador

July 26 – August 16

### Tentative Course Outline and Assessment Scheme

#### ENV381H0 Special Topics Field Course: An Introduction to Ecuador

**Please note** that there is no exclusion between this course and ENV395Y0 Field Course in Ecuador: Andes, Amazon, and Galápagos.

#### Professors Barbara Murck and Christoph Richter

**Background:** One of the highest biodiversities in the world; the point furthest from the equator; histories and cultures that span millennia; and a central role in the history of science. The Amazon; the Galápagos Islands; and the Andes. Coffee; cocoa; bananas; and oil. Andean condors; whale sharks; and jaguars. All of this in a country that is about ¼ the size of Ontario: Ecuador. This online course will offer an introductory exploration of this Latin American country. Based on readings, lectures, guest lectures, experiential activities, and discussions, we will discover the geography and geology, ecology, history, culture and economy as well as its social and political evolution and current issues. Throughout the course, students will work on projects that will allow them to actively explore and study a wide range of subjects and contexts.

#### Course Goals:

Through our course activities, it is our intention to:

- establish a learning community that promotes individual creativity, productive interactions, and mutual support, to facilitate both student learning and personal growth;
- provide opportunities for students to challenge themselves while exploring the extraordinary geographical, biological, historical, and cultural diversity of Ecuador;
- expand students' awareness of the relationships among social, political, economic, and environmental issues in fragile and contested situations; and
- encourage students to learn about, consider, and engage with diverse cultural values and perspectives on environmental, economic, and social issues in the developing world, including indigenous perspectives.

#### Learning Outcomes:

After having completed this course, you should be able to:

- discuss the ecological, geological, and climatological characteristics of the regions of Ecuador;
- discuss some of the many challenges facing Ecuador today with regard to conservation; habitat threats; species at risk; invasive species; climate change; and sustainable economic development;
- discuss the historical and cultural characteristics of Ecuador in its regional context;
- produce a term paper, in scholarly style, on a topic of your choosing that is relevant to any of the topics we cover in the course; and
- use, without aids, scholarly terminology appropriate to the course content.

## Tentative Class Schedule:

<b>Monday July 26:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the course</li><li>• Lecture: Physical Framework of Ecuador</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday July 27:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture: Ecological Environments and Conservation Issues in Ecuador</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday July 28:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture: Ethnobotany of the Amazon – Guest: Prof. Monika Havelka</li><li>• Lecture: History and Culture of Ecuador</li></ul>
<b>Thursday July 29:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture: Current Political Issues</li><li>• Lecture: Economics and Important Products of Ecuador</li></ul>
(Monday August 2: HOLIDAY – no classes)
<b>Tuesday August 3:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tour of Historic Quito and the Andes</li><li>• Guest: Alfonso Tandazo from Surtrek Adventures</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday August 4:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coffee – Tasting and perspectives from an artisanal coffee producer</li><li>• Guest: Wilson Gonzalez-Ramos from Galápagos Coffee Company</li></ul>
<b>Thursday August 5:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traditional Foods, Local Ingredients, and Culture of Ecuador</li><li>• Guest: Sebas Navas from Universidad San Francisco, Arte Culinario y Turismo</li></ul>
<b>Monday August 9:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Trip to the Amazon – Ecology, Conservation, and Current Issues</li><li>• Guest: Diego Mosquera from Tiputini Biodiversity Station</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday August 10:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everything About Chocolate – Pacari tasting</li><li>• Guest: Sebastián Navas from Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Arte Culinario y Turismo</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday August 11:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Let's Go to the Galápagos Islands</li></ul>
<b>Thursday August 12:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooking Class – Ecuadorian Traditional Recipes</li><li>• Guest: Chef Mario Jimenez, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Arte Culinario y Turismo</li></ul>
<b>Monday August 16 (makeup date from the long weekend):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50-min Final Test</li><li>• Course Conclusions</li></ul>

**Tentative Evaluation Scheme:**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>
Pre-course assignment: Fact Sheet on a selected topic	10%
2-minute informal talk on Fact Sheet topic	4%
Participate fully in online course sessions	10%
Submit questions in advance of experiential sessions (Week 2 & Week 3)	6%
Reactions to guests or experiential sessions (choose any two)	10%
Final Test (50 min – August 16)	30%
Term Paper on a topic of your choice	25%
Retrospective	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>