

**Woodsworth College and School of Environment  
University of Toronto  
Summer Abroad 2021  
ENV382H0 Special Topics Field Course: An  
Introduction to Ecuador  
July 26 – August 12  
Tentative Course Outline and Assessment Scheme**

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**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;
- 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.

**Evaluation:**

Participation	10%
Multi-component project	30%
Weekly reactions to guest experiences (5x5%)	25%
Pre-course assignment: what do you know and what do you want to know	10%
Final exam	25%

**Required reading:** TBD