

COSTA RICA CROSS-CULTURAL COURSE

January, 2020

The following information is subject to change.

Course Description: An examination of the culture of Costa Rica, through lectures on social, political, and economic institutions, with visits to important cultural sites, places of business, economic development projects, everyday locations, and tourist attractions.

Basic Facts about Costa Rica:

- Most affluent of the Central American countries. (2014 GNI per capita = \$10,120)
- Slightly smaller than West Virginia. Two major coastlines.
- Population of approximately 5 million (50% urban, 50% rural).
- Life expectancy of 77 years and 96% adult literacy rate.
- A peaceful democracy that is generally pro-U.S.
- Coffee, bananas, pineapples and tourism are very important industries.
- Concerns: foreign debt, inflation, unemployment, deforestation, illegal immigration, drug trafficking.

We Will Speak With and Visit:

- University professors, government officials, development workers, businesspeople, pastors, missionaries, and other observers of Costa Rica.
- Plantations, factories, development projects, churches, seminaries, and government offices.
- Tourist sites: beaches (both coasts), cloud forest, museums, small towns, etc.
- Costa Rican families: a 5-day home stay is planned.

Academic Requirements:

1. Attend two college Cross Cultural pre-departure briefings.
2. Attend four pre-departure Costa Rica briefings.
3. Take an examination on the assigned textbooks and readings.
4. Make an oral presentation while in Costa Rica.
5. Participate in all scheduled activities.
6. Keep a daily observation/analysis journal during the trip.
7. Write a reflection/integration paper after returning to the U.S.
8. Attend a post-trip debriefing.

Other Information:

- *Depart: Thursday, 1/9/20 in AM from Grantham for Baltimore, BWI Airport.
- Return: Thursday, 1/30/20 in PM to Baltimore, BWI Airport and then to Grantham.
- *Estimated course cost is \$2,900. This covers everything but your personal spending money (~\$150).
- If accepted, a \$200 deposit will claim and hold your place.
- The trip cost along with your deposit will be itemized on your Spring Semester bill.
- A reduction of Messiah room & board charges is made by the College.
- Financial aid may be available. Students should check with the Financial Aid office.
- *A passport is required. No shots are necessary.
- *All students must complete an on-line application form.
- *Spanish is very helpful but not required. Students majoring in any field are welcome.
- *For more information see Dr. Kilmer in Frey 333 (x2310) or Dr Weaver in Frey 336 (x3785).

***COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 1st, 2019. NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE WILL BE MADE BY APRIL 13th, 2019.**

***ACCEPTED APPLICANTS MUST PAY THEIR DEPOSITS AT THE BUSINESS OFFICE (ACCOUNT #2254) AND SUBMIT THEIR RECEIPTS WITHIN 10 DAYS OF ACCEPTANCE TO CLAIM THEIR PLACES. (NOTE: A refund of \$50 will be made through September 15 for canceled reservations. After September 15, the entire deposit is non-refundable.)**

NOTE: Because payments on your behalf are typically made months in advance to travel agencies, airline companies, and assorted accommodations, many payments are nonrefundable. Therefore, if you withdraw from participation in the trip for any reason or are removed from participation by the College, you will forfeit whatever monies cannot be recovered, plus a \$100 handling fee. The exact amount of recovered monies can generally not be established until the trip has been completed.