

New College Wide
Complementary Course

The Tropics: Opportunities and Challenges

Teachers: Brandee Diner and
Myriam Mansour

Chaperone: Quentin vanGinhoven

The Tropics: Opportunities and Challenges

An Exploration of Human-Environment Relationships
in Belize

New
Complementary Course!!
Open to All



Winter 2016:
Includes Field Trip to
Belize - March Break

*Are you concerned about the tropical environment
and intrigued about social economy?*

Come discover:

- * Tropical ecosystems and biodiversity conservation
- * Maya ruins and contemporary land uses
- * Economic development of natural resources

Info Session:
April 29, 2015
12:00pm in A-320
Register by:
September 30, 2015

For more information contact:
Myriam Mansour: mansourm@vaniercollege.qc.ca
Brandee Diner: dinerb@vaniercollege.qc.ca

45 hour course

January to March 2016

24 hours in class

(3 hours per week x 8
weeks: 2 h. of academics &
1 h. group planning)

March Break 2016

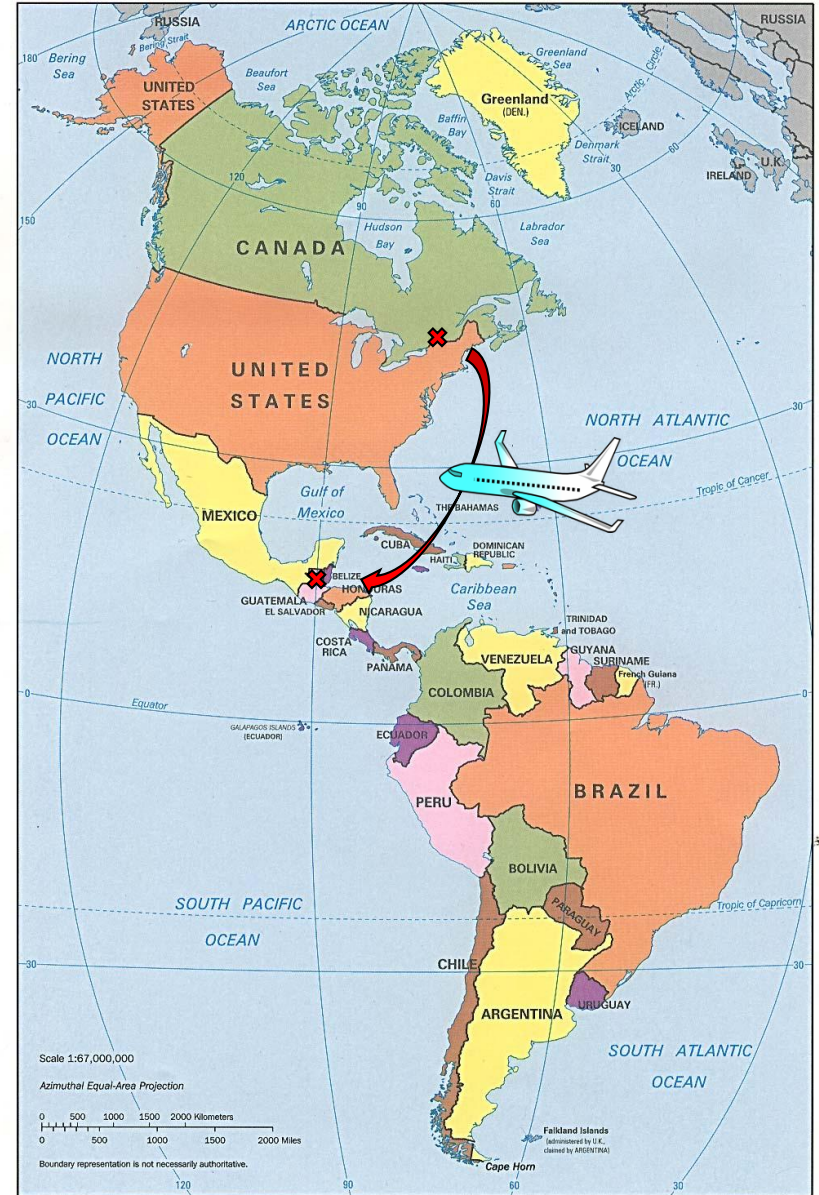
8 days in the field

April 2016

2 hours in class

(2 hours per week x 1 week)

North and South America



Destination in Belize:



Course Themes

- Human-environment relationships in the Tropics
- History and culture of Belize
- Ecology of tropical ecosystems (terrestrial & aquatic)
- Conservation efforts in Belize
- Socio-economic perspectives on tropical environments
- Development of nature-based economic activities
 - Consumptive & non-consumptive
- Visitors' roles and responsibilities in Belize
 - Responsible tourism & equitable exchanges

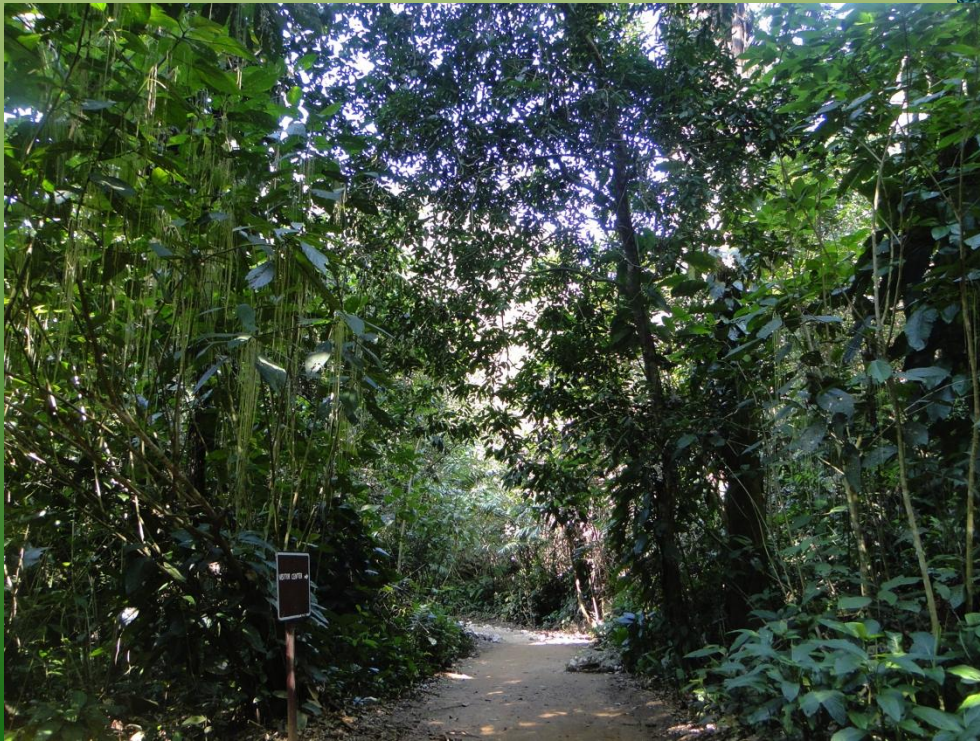
Course Evaluation (tentative)

Activity	Percentage
In-class activities and homework	15
In class quizzes (3 x 5%)	15
Trip Journal & Ecological footprint essay	20
Term Project (Group)	30
Oral Expression	10
Personal conduct & participation	10

Field Activities (subject to change)

1. Ecosystem Exploration

- Tropical rainforest hikes
- Wildlife reserve excursion
- Coral reef excursion



Field Activities (subject to change)

2. Human-Environment Relationships

- Maya ruins - Xunantunich
- Agriculture
 - Citrus plantation and organic farming
- A stay in a Maya community
 - Traditional practices, cooking spirituality
- Informal interaction with local people



Source: <http://nuukcheilcottages.com/index.php>



T.R.E.E.S. Facilities



Accommodation at T.R.E.E.S.



Estimated Expenses* - approximations

Include the expenses for 2 teachers and 1 chaperon

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost Per person</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
Airfare – Montreal-Belize City-Montreal	~ \$900 U.S.	~ \$1200 U.S.
Accommodation (8 nights)	~ \$30 U.S./night	~ \$300 U.S.
3 meals/day (8 days)	~ \$31 U.S./night	~ \$250 U.S.
Local transportation (bus, boat to island)	~ \$90 U.S.	~ \$150 U.S.
Field activities and entrance fees (Maya center, wildlife reserves, snorkeling, etc.)	~ \$100 U.S.	~ \$100 U.S.
TOTAL		~ \$2000 U.S.

* Does not include pre-departure incidentals such as passport, vaccinations, etc.

* The quotes we get from Belize are all in US\$; a drop in the Canadian \$ rises the cost.

NOTE: Students will do fundraising to reduce costs

Key Qualities of Candidates

- Responsible and trustworthy
- Courteous, altruistic, sociable and a team players
- Open-minded, humble (ready to learn) and respectful
- Sense of adventure; accept the tropical heat without winning
- Have confidence and be trusting (Don't panic! It will be all right!)
- Be in relatively good shape (ready to walk)
- Not afraid of nature's creatures (insects, reptiles, etc.)
- Be comfortable in and around water
- Amenable to vaccinations

Selection Process

- The group will be composed of a maximum of 28 students
- Selection will be based on:
 - A letter of intent
 - Short interview
 - College record (academic and behavioural)
 - Candidates' past experiences

Step 1: Letter of Intent

- Send by MIO (as an attachment) to Brandee Diner and Myriam Mansour **by September 30**
- In 200 words, describe:
 - Your interest in this course
 - Why you believe you are a good candidate
 - How you believe you can contribute to the course (including the field trip)
 - How you will offer a positive contribution to group dynamics and harmony
 - Any other pertinent information

Step 2: Interviews

- Pre-selected candidates will be interviewed
- Interviews will take place in October
- A final selection will be made
- Selected students will **sign** a contract and make a **\$200 deposit by October 30th**.

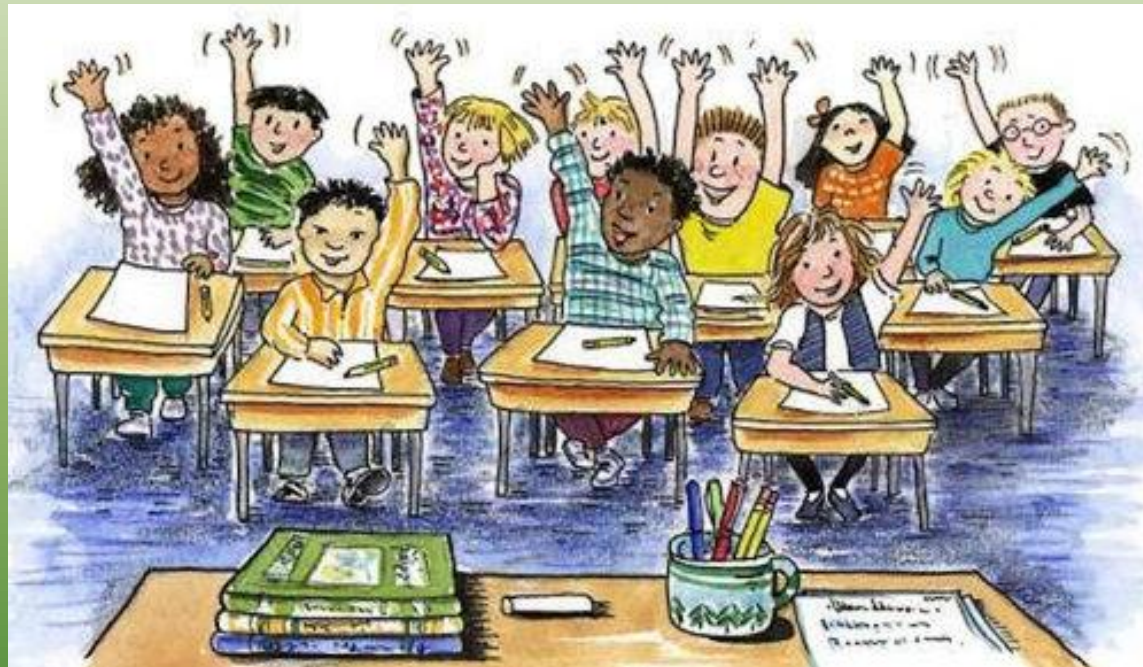
Step 3: First meeting (early November)

- Presentation of participants
- Completion of forms
- Q&A session
- Organization of **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES!**



Step 4: Fund raising and potential 2nd meeting (November-December)

Step 5: First class! (January 2016)



Timeline

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
Submit Letter of Intent	September 30, 2015
Interviews	October 2015
Contract and Deposit	October 30, 2015
First Meeting	Early November 2015
Fundraising Activities	November 2015 – March 2016
First Class	January 2016
Trip to Belize	March 12 – 20, 2016





Don't forget!

... To send a **letter of intent** by MIO to
Myriam Mansour AND Brandee Diner
before September 30th !