

Summer I 2017 ENVR 495 (Tentative schedule as of 10/2016)

## Wildlife Conservation in Trinidad

### Instructors

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### Course Description

This course fulfills the experiential learning requirement for environmental studies majors and should also be of great interest to biology majors. We focus on methods for studying tropical wildlife, citizen science approaches to collecting wildlife data, and community-based conservation. Students study tropical wildlife diversity as well, appreciating and learning to identify a variety of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Students will observe and participate in local conservation efforts, learning firsthand about the details that make such projects successful. Students will record their experiences, observations, and reflections in a journal that will be submitted for a grade at the end of the course. Teams of 2-4 students will work together on independent research projects dealing with wildlife ecology, conservation, outreach, or education. Many, if not all, projects will produce results or materials that will be of practical benefit to the Asa Wright Nature Center in support of their mission of conservation and education. Assigned reading will be completed before traveling to Trinidad, and a paper describing the research project will be due after we return to Salisbury.

**Locations to be visited:** <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=z92VerWpMa7Q.knvM4aOJTUNg>

### Goals

Throughout the course, students will:

- Gain knowledge of the wildlife and natural history of Trinidad
- Gain knowledge of the people and culture of Trinidad
- Experience several tropical ecosystems
- Collect data from endangered sea turtles
- Contribute to the conservation of wildlife in Trinidad
- Come to appreciate the complexity of conservation issues faced throughout the world in general, and on Trinidad, in particular
- Understand the role of local people in conservation
- Design, implement, and complete a conservation-oriented project in small groups

### Course materials:

- Students will print materials from MyClasses site and place in personal binder to bring with them to Trinidad.
- "Birds of Trinidad and Tobago" by Martyn Kenefick, Robin L. Restall, and Floyd Hayes (Helm Field Guides). Paperback. 2011. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- Binoculars, 8 x 42 or 10 x 42 (preferably Nitrogen purged (waterproof)). Check with course instructors for links to recommended companies before purchasing
- Journal (Rite-in-the-Rain brand)
- Headlamp with red light (check with course instructors before purchasing)
- We will share a travel checklist of items that we recommend for travel to a tropical island

### Grading:

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There will be 500 total points in the course. Final grades are based on the following components:

Participation (50 pts)	10%
Discussion (100 pts)	20%
Journal (100 pts)	20%
Group project (150 pts)	30%
Final Project Paper or Materials (100 pts)	20%

#### TENTATIVE ITINERARY: ALL PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

*This should give a general idea of our likely schedule*

Day(s)	Date(s)	Activity/Activities
Su	7/9	Meet at Airport. Depart from Reagan Nat'l or BWI/Arrive Trinidad (stay Asa Wright Nature Centre)
M	7/10	At Asa, nature walks, natural history of area
Tu	7/11	Asa, Caroni Swamp tour
W	7/12	Arrive Nature Seekers, Leatherback research training
Th-Tu	7/13-7/18	Nature Seekers, leatherback turtles
W-Th	7/19-7/20	Mt. Plaisir (more turtles)
F-Tu	7/21-7/25	Projects at Asa Wright
W	7/26	Travel to Brasso Seco village/meet with local students
Th	7/27	Return to SU*(see alt. poss. below)
F-M	7/28-31	Work on final project reports/output*(see alt. poss. below)

#### \*Alt plan

Th	7/27	Return to US (airport)
F-Su	7/28-7/30	Off/home
M-Th	7/31-8/3	Work on final project reports/output

**Students with Disabilities:** The Office of Student Disability Support Services (OSDSS) provides guidance, access to resources, and accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Such disabilities could include: medical, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities, and/or mobility, visual, and/or hearing impairments <http://www.salisbury.edu/students/dss/> For this course, any special needs will be accommodated as much as possible, given the resources of Salisbury University and our partners in Trinidad.

**Writing Across the Curriculum:** This course has a significant writing component, including in-class journals and a final written report.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated, will result in a failing grade on an assignment, and may result in a failing grade in the course. If you are unsure when or how to cite something – ASK! See: <http://www.salisbury.edu/library/plagiarism/student.html> if you have questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism.