ROO TS, FRUITS & RESILIENCY: Cultural Ecology, Sustainable Agriculture & Eco-Heritage Tourism in Jamaica (SUMMER 2015)

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course is a partnership between IU’s Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT), and the Bowden Ben Farmers’ Association (BPFA) in rural eastern Jamaica. Summer 2015 will mark the 8th offering of the course/program. In Jamaica students will participate in experiential-learning initiatives associated with cultural ecology, sustainable agriculture, eco-heritage tourism, park management, and permaculture design. Permaculture is creative systems-thinking approach to designing productive and resilient ways of living for humans while working with and sustaining natural environments. Summer intensive class sessions at IU (Bloomington) provide students with a foundational understanding of: 1) Jamaican history and expressive culture; 2) ecotourism and ecological issues in the Caribbean; 3) agricultural practices and constraints facing small-scale farmers in Jamaica; and 4) contemporary approaches to creating and maintaining sustainable and resilient communities. Seminars and workshops in Jamaica with farmers, park rangers, community leaders, herbalists, spiritualists, poets, and musicians place further emphasis on the roots, fruits, and resiliency of indigenous agricultural, environmental, and cultural practices. Highlights of the overseas component also include: service-learning projects, farm site visits, a trip to the Maroon community of Moore Town, hiking on historic trails and other outdoor recreational activities. Students will enjoy traditional Jamaican food and hospitality at the Holywell Recreational Area above Kingston and at the Ambassabeth Cabins Ecolodge in the Rio Grande Valley.


Instructors: Dr. John Galuska (Cultural Anthropologist, Ethnomusicologist, Permaculture Designer and Urban Farmer) & Natalie Christian (Biologist)

Course Dates & Times: Summer intensive (6-weeks)
May 13-June 29, 2015, M-F (late afternoon or early evening meeting time)

Course Costs: $2,600 (Resident Students) $2,800 (Non-Resident Students)
- 3 IU credit-hours are included in the fee.
- Students are responsible for purchasing a round-trip airline ticket.
- A non-refundable $500 program deposit is due by March 11, 2015.

Anticipated Application Deadline: FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Course Credit: Undergraduates: OVST-J497 Overseas Study in the Caribbean (3-credits), honored as L426 Latin American & Caribbean Studies.
Graduate Students: L803 (3-credits) OR individualized credit by special arrangement with departmental faculty.

Additional Course Info: jgaluska@indiana.edu, 855-6215