Tropical Marine Ecology

This unique course will introduce you to the diversity of coral reef communities from shallow waters near beaches to deeper waters near the shelf edge of the islands’ platform. You will travel through various ocean environments surrounding the Virgin Islands. You will sail between field sites scattered around the British and US Virgin Islands abroad a catamaran and visit, observe and compare a variety of different coral reef and mangrove communities. Our floating classroom will allow you to learn about physical oceanography and how it shapes the biotic communities. In addition to the biological explorations, you will have the opportunity to visit a number of different islands making up the Virgin Island archipelago. This “island hopping” will allow you to compare the cultural, and ecological differences between each island.

Tentative Itinerary

Friday, May 28:
Depart USA for Tortola, BVI. Arrive BVI, transfer to Sun Sail Road Harbor Marina. Board catamaran at Tortola. Shopping for food supplies. Orientation and briefing by captain/physical oceanographer Dr. Chérubin. Night on board at the marina.

Saturday, May 29:
Boat check in. Set sail at midday to the Bath for first snorkeling trip.

Sunday, May 30:
Set sail early morning to Anegada. Night anchoring at Horseshoe reef.

Monday, May 31:
Oceanography lecture. Snorkeling and coral ID activities. Introduction to REEF Fish surveys and practice fish frequency and abundance census.

Tuesday, June 1:
Exploration of Anegada’s barrier reef to the south east. Continue Oceanography & Biomimetic discussions that were started on the web portion of the course.

Wednesday, June 2:
Exploration of Anegada barrier reef to the north east. Conduct REEF Fish surveys. Animal behavior lecture supported with field observations. Night at Anegada’s west end. Dinner on land.

Thursday, June 3:
Morning land field trip to Anegada. Exploration of northern barrier reef (lagoon and outer reef). Reef fish and creature practical ID quiz. Discuss island ecology focused on synthesizing physical oceanography, ecology and animal behavior. Conduct REEF Fish survey.

Friday, June 4:
Sail early morning to Bitter End and exploration of St. Eustatia Sound.

Saturday, June 5:
Sail back to Green Cay on Little Jost Van Dyke.

Sunday, June 6:
Snorkeling and return to Road Harbor

Monday, June 7:
Packing and taxi to airport. Return to USA.
**Housing and Meals**

Students will stay aboard the catamaran and will have most meals onboard.

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**Program Costs**

The cost information below lists all costs included in the program fee, and estimates for additional expenses. There is no additional tuition charge for this program for SUNY Oswego students.

**Program Fee:** $2595.00

The program fee includes the following:
- International flight;
- Most meals;
- Tours;
- Repatriation insurance coverage;
- Accommodations; and
- All entrance fees.

The program fee does not include:
- Passport cost- $100.00;
- Spending Money- $100.00;
- Additional Meals- $100.00; and
- Connecting Flight - (cost varies).

The above are estimates and vary per individual spending habits.

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**Course Enrollment & Requirements**

The study visit is a required component of the 3 credit “BIO 301: Virgin Islands” course. The coursework for this course is done online during Q4, and a course syllabus will be provided with course requirements.

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**Qualifications**

Interested students will be registered for Q4 course “BIO 301: Virgin Islands - Tropical Marine Ecology” during course registration by the Office of International Education and Programs.

**Payment Dates**

- December 1, 2009 $250 deposit due
- January 15, 2010 Program Balance due

**Applications**

Submit completed application with $250 deposit by December 1st to the Office of International Education and Programs. Earlier applications strongly encouraged. Refer to [http://www.oswego.edu/intled](http://www.oswego.edu/intled) for application and registration instructions.

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For more information contact:
Lizette Alvarado
E-mail:  lalvara3@oswego.edu
Office of International Education & Programs
100 Sheldon Hall
Oswego, New York 13126

Tel:  315-312-2118
Fax:  315-312-2477
http://www.oswego.edu/intled