INTE 3020Z: Global Intensive Opportunity
in Costa Rica

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. James H. Kennedy
Regents Professor of Biological Sciences
Kennedy@unt.edu
(940) 565-2981

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Global Intensive Opportunity (GIO) is an intensive academic experience abroad offered as a zero
credit course. The GIO is paired with a semester-long parent course(s) and aims to enhance
students’ understanding of the parent course content within a global context. GIO provides
students the opportunity to add a global perspective to their degree through high impact, academic
activities that expand on the relevant and usable parent course. GIO will primarily run during the
spring semester spring break but may be offered in other semesters and/or other times during the
academic year.

This particular GIO focuses on conservation of aquatic ecosystems. The experience students will
have in Costa Rica ecosystems will diversify their knowledge of freshwater ecosystems and the
environmental issues associated with these systems. Addressing water issues require approaches
that are rooted in a complex socio-ecological adaptive system. Solving these problems requires the
integration of ecological and cultural principles. In this context, the course, through a series of
educational modules, will provide students with an interdisciplinary experience in ecology, and
conservation. Ultimately, these experiences can lead to more effective implementation of
conservation practices and restoration efforts in watersheds.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• Students will develop new perspectives on the U.S. and its role in the world.
• Students will advance their intellectual curiosity about the world and critical self-reflection
about their own values and cultures.
• Students will cultivate intercultural awareness and competencies that contribute to a greater
appreciation of differences in the world.
• Students will understand purposeful public engagement as well as social and ethical
responsibility in both local and global contexts.
• Students’ skills and attitudes will be enhanced in the following areas: self-direction,
confidence, critical thinking, and tolerance.
• Students will enhance their competency to use aquatic insects as a tool in aquatic ecology
studies and bioassessments.
• Students will gain an understanding that solving modern-day environmental issues require an
approach that integrates, socio-political considerations, ecological, environmental, and conservation
principals.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
• Students must be enrolled in designated parent course(s) offered during the fall or spring semester.
• Students must participate in an intensive academic experience abroad that has a duration of at least one (1) week.
• Students must attend a general and program specific pre-departure orientation and commit to full participation during the program, which includes 18-21 contact hours plus limited reading/other assignments outside of contact hours.
• Program activities and specific assignments will vary for each GIO program, but may include guest lectures in context, fieldwork, excursions, walking tours, site visits, service learning activities, and others.

GRADING
Your grade for this class will be based on the following:
• Active participation (discussion, engagement, initiative) in all program activities (60%)
• Daily reflective journal or blog (20%)
• Final paper or presentation (20%)

GRADING SCALE
• Pass (P)
• No-Pass (NP)

TENTATIVE COURSE PLAN

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<td>• Guest lecture/field</td>
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<td>• Day trip</td>
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"Illustrative"

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
UNT promotes the integrity of the learning process and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the university. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the university’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence. UNT’s Student Academic Integrity includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and others. Violations in this course of UNT’s Student Academic
Integrity policy will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. The policy is available at: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003.

**STATEMENT OF ADA COMPLIANCE**
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at https://disability.unt.edu/.

**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

**SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, & ASSAULT**
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct#4. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.