"To move, to breathe, to fly, to float.  
To gain all while you give.  
To roam the roads of lands remote.  
To travel is to live."

*Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairy Tales of My Life*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Thomas Kuzmic, Professor of Forestry  
**Office:** 015 Agriculture Hall  
**Telephone:** 744-5463  
**E-mail:** thomas.kuzmic@okstate.edu  
**Office Hours:** An “open door” policy is generally maintained when I am not otherwise in class or at a meeting. Most any day and time is good to catch me in the office except Tuesday and Thursdays between 10:00am to noon. Students are welcome to drop in, but appointments are recommended.

**TIME & PLACE:**  
**Class Sessions:** Wednesdays at 5:30-8:20pm, 019 Agriculture Hall  
**Ecuador Study-Trip** - March 3-19. As students were notified earlier, our trip departure on March 3 requires that we will miss the full week of class prior to Spring Break (March 6-10), plus the Friday before that week (March 3). Each student will receive a letter to present to their other professors to request their consideration for this absence.

**OVERVIEW:** This course provides an opportunity to experience the connections between people, the land, and natural resources in an international setting---the diverse landscape, ecosystems, and culture of Ecuador, in South America. The course is open to all OSU students at all class levels and academic majors. There are no prerequisites other than an open mind and a willingness to try something uniquely different in your academic program!

**OBJECTIVES:** Our course experience is aimed accomplishing the following:  
♦ Providing opportunities for a first-person experience with a culture and environment beyond the familiar borders of our own homes and communities.  
♦ Broadening and enriching our multicultural awareness, understanding, and ideology regarding the global community.  
♦ Experiencing a diversity of ways that land and natural resources are viewed and utilized by people.  
♦ Learning about sustainable systems for land use, agriculture, natural resource management, community development, and the marketplace.  
♦ Stimulating a motivation for lifelong, global perspective learning.
The course is divided into three components. The first involves Wednesday evening class sessions on the OSU campus each week prior to the study-trip, to establish a knowledge foundation and learning framework, to focus on the basics of language and culture, and to prepare for our travel experience abroad.

The second component is our trip to Ecuador on March 3-19. Our itinerary is presented on pages 8-13. We will travel by plane, bus, boat, horse, and foot, experiencing three exciting landscapes of Ecuador, including the high sierra of the Andes Mountains, the upper reaches of the Amazonian rainforest, and the incredibly unique and diverse Galápagos Islands. We will explore several distinct ecosystems within each region, and never be more than 50 miles north or south of the equator! We will interact with Ecuadorians from all walks of life. We will learn by doing things---not just looking at things. Service activity and adventure are built in to our learning experience.

The third component back on campus after our trip includes independent work on student written components, and just two relatively short class meetings.

A weekly schedule of course topics and activities is included on pages 4-6.

Language and cultural enrichment are important components of travel abroad. If you have some competency with Spanish, you will have a great time putting it into practice during our trip. If not, do not worry. We will have bilingual guides everywhere that we travel in Ecuador, and you can have a great trip with no Spanish ability at all. Yet, if you have a basic understanding of some basic elements of the Spanish language and are familiar with some of the cultural norms, it certainly will enhance the travel experience. People in other countries very much appreciate when visitors attempt to use their language and to follow accepted customs. So we will dedicate some time each week to the basics of:

- Spanish pronunciation
- Meeting and greeting people, and making basic conversation
- Numbers and making purchases
- Foods, beverages and ordering meals in restaurants
- Getting around and inquiring about needed services

Each week, prior to our trip, we will focus on some basic travel preparations, so that everyone can become more "travel savvy." We will discuss recommendations and guidelines regarding:

- Luggage, packing, clothing and other travel items
- Encounters with people, and our presence and behavior in foreign settings
- Safety and security
- Medical, health and sanitation issues, and insurance
- Budgeting funds and handling currency in a safe way
- Getting in and out of airports; customs and immigration; and hotels
- The art of being a good ambassador and good group member

No textbook! A listing of books and websites is included on page 7 if you want to do some exploring before we travel. The following travel guide is recommended:

_Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands_ by Ben Westwood
2015---6th Edition (it has a historic building and mountains on the front cover)
Moon Handbooks, Avalon Travel Publishing, Inc.
In order to assess learning and to fulfill OSU General Education writing requirements, students will develop course portfolios that incorporate the following elements:

♦ **Statement of personal objectives:** Prepare a written statement (2 pages) that outlines your objectives, motives, and what you hope to accomplish by taking this class and traveling to Ecuador.

♦ **Personal journal:** Use a small bound notebook to chronicle your daily observations, experiences and insights as our travel experience unfolds in Ecuador. Your journal will represent your personal benchmark of yourself for this experience. Please know that I eventually will read your journal, so choose your words accordingly. Please write neatly...and profoundly! Journals should encompass at least 35 pages of personal insight, commentary and reflection.

♦ **"Top 5" learning elements and insights from our travel experience:** Identify the five most significant insights, revelations, and take-home messages from our experience abroad, and write a one-page statement for each, indicating how they have influenced your thinking about our world and its people, and how they have affected your life.

♦ **Summary assessment and evaluation of your travel experience:** Prepare a written statement (2-3 pages) that assesses and evaluates the extent to which you accomplished the following during our travel abroad.
  - fulfillment of course objectives presented on the first page of this syllabus
  - fulfillment of your own "statement of personal objectives" referred to above

**DUE DATES:**

♦ January 25 (Week #2): Statement of personal objectives due

♦ April 19 (Week #13): Completed course portfolio due; all four items above must be submitted together in a folder or packet of your choosing.

**FORMAT:** Written materials must be submitted as typed "hard copy" (double-spaced, font size 12, one-inch margins) with the exception of the journal, which will be neatly hand-written. Items will be reviewed and possibly may be returned to students for revision or enhancement if necessary.

**EVALUATION & GRADING:** Final course grades will be assigned based on an assessment of each student’s success in fulfilling three criteria:

♦ Quality, creativity and effectiveness of their Course Portfolio.

♦ Adherence to deadlines.

♦ Attendance and meaningful participation in campus classes and the Ecuador trip.

**No examinations will be given in this course!**

Letter grade definitions are those stipulated in the OSU catalog:

A = Excellent. Student work is exemplary and greatly exceeds expectations of the faculty.

B = Good. Student work is of high quality and somewhat exceeds the expectations of the faculty.

C = Average. Student work is acceptable and meets the expectations of the faculty.

D = Below average. Student work is marginally acceptable though somewhat below the expectations of the faculty.

F = Failure. Student work is unacceptable, well below the expectations of the faculty.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF CLASS ACTIVITIES

WEEK #1 -- January 18

- Course orientation
  - Course and trip objectives and format
  - Course portfolio
- People and the Land
  - Geographic setting and biodiversity of Ecuador
  - Overview of study-trip itinerary
- Language and Culture
  - Meeting and greeting people
  - Basic salutations and responses
- Travel preparations
  - Passports
  - Review of flight schedule and reservations
  - Trip budget and personal funds
  - US Department of State "Smart Traveler Enrollment Program" (STEP)
  - OSU Abroad Travel Preparedness & Tracking System
  - Personal medical insurance
  - Participant survey

WEEK #2 -- January 25

- People and the Land
  - Historical Overview
    - Early cultures & the Inca
    - Spanish Conquest
    - Colonial period, independence, and the early republic
    - Modern Era
  - The people of Ecuador today
    - Demographics
    - Government, politics and economy
    - Agriculture, manufacture and business
    - Religion, language and education
    - Customs and ideology
    - Arts, music and food
- Language and Culture
  - Spanish alphabet & pronunciation
  - Stress and pronunciation
- Travel preparations
  - Luggage and packing for travel
  - Travel checklist
  - Guidelines for clothing and personal dress

**DEADLINE:**
- Statement of Personal Objectives due today
- Participant Survey due today
- Enroll in US State Department STEP by today (submit copy of e-mail verification)
WEEK #3 – February 1

- People and the Land
  - Sustainable community development and capacity-building
  - Sustainable ecotourism
  - Role and function of nongovernment organizations (NGOs)

- Language and Culture
  - More meeting and greeting people
  - Family and friends
  - Modifiers, possessives, diminutives & affection

- Travel preparations
  - Safety and security
  - Medical concerns
  - Health and sanitation issues

WEEK #4 – February 8

- People and the Land
  - The Ecuadorian Sierra
    - Climate, ecosystems and biodiversity of the Andean highlands
    - The páramo
    - Agriculture in the Sierra

- Language and Culture
  - Basic "survival" verbs
  - Building basic sentences
  - Questions and negatives

- Travel preparations
  - The art of being a good ambassador and good group member
  - Knowing where you are
  - General encounters with people
  - Responsible tourism

WEEK #5 – February 15

- People and the Land
  - The Ecuadorian Oriente - the Rainforest
    - Climate, ecosystems and biodiversity of the tropical rainforest
    - Traditional reliance on the land
    - Agriculture in the Oriente
    - Oil exploitation and related issues
  - The Yachana Foundation in Ecuador

- Language and Culture
  - Numbers and quantities
  - Meal time, foods, beverages and restaurants

- Travel preparations
  - Handling currency in a safe way
  - Credit and debit cards, and ATMs
  - Keeping a personal travel budget log
  - Shopping and making purchases
WEEK #6 -- February 22

- People and the Land
  - The Galápagos Islands
    - Geographic setting and climate
    - Ecological life zones
    - Floral and faunal biodiversity
    - Discovery and early history
    - Charles Darwin
    - Galápagos Islands National Park
    - Population and tourism growth
    - Exotic, invasive and threatened species
    - Special Law of 1998
    - Present-day policy and management

- Language and Culture
  - Agriculture & the great outdoors

- Travel Preparations
  - Departing and returning to the OSU campus at the start and end of the trip
  - Getting in and out of airports
  - Baggage handling
  - Airport check-in
  - Airport security
  - Immigration and Customs
  - Galápagos Islands fees
  - Passport, personal money, & airline ticket confirmation number

WEEK #7 -- March 1 Class; Ecuador trip begins on March 3!

- Travel Preparations – final details
  - March 3 - Meet at Ag Hall packed, loaded, and ready to go, between noon and 12:30pm. We will depart campus promptly at 12:30pm!

WEEK #8 & SPRING BREAK WEEK-- Ecuador study-trip continues through March 19

WEEK #9 -- March 22 -- Short class to discuss Course Portfolios

WEEK #10 -- March 29 -- NO CLASS! Work on your Course Portfolio

WEEK #11 -- April 5 -- NO CLASS! Work on your Course Portfolio

WEEK #12 -- April 12 -- NO CLASS! Work on your Course Portfolio; due next week!

WEEK #13 -- April 19 -- Short class; course portfolios due!

WEEK #14 – April 26 -- NO CLASS! We are done with the course!

WEEK #15 – May 3 -- NO CLASS! We are done with the course!
ACADEMIC & TOURISM RESOURCES: BOOKS


ACADEMIC & TOURISM RESOURCES: INTERNET SITES

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION & ADVICE


United Airlines  [www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

U.S. State Department  [http://travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

ECUADOR INFORMATION: TRAVEL, HOTELS, NGOs, VIDEOS, & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Casa Mojanda  [www.casamojanda.com](http://www.casamojanda.com)

Ecuador: Life at its Purest (YouTube)  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM-o1eesn4M&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM-o1eesn4M&NR=1)

Galápagos National Park  [www.galapagospark.org](http://www.galapagospark.org)

Galapagos Tourist  [www.galapagostourist.org](http://www.galapagostourist.org)

Illinizas Lodge  [www.illinizaslodge.com](http://www.illinizaslodge.com)

Ñanda Mañachi (music video on YouTube)  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPPjM6QJ3R8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPPjM6QJ3R8)


Wildsumaco Lodge  [www.wildsumaco.com](http://www.wildsumaco.com)

Yachana Foundation  [www.yachana.org.ec](http://www.yachana.org.ec)

Yachana Lodge  [www.yachana.com](http://www.yachana.com)
NOTE: Meals and other items highlighted in yellow are to be paid individually by each participant out of pocket. All other meals are included in the overall program fee.

DAY 1 - Friday, March 3
- Morning:
  - Depart OSU at 7:30am; travel to Tulsa in OSU vans
  - Fly from Tulsa to Houston (UA6069, 10:50am - 12:20pm)
- Afternoon:
  - At Houston airport
- Evening:
  - Fly from Houston to Quito (UA1035, 5:35pm - 11:59pm)
- Logistics:
  - Lunch - at Houston airport
  - Supper - at Houston airport; snack on flight
  - Lodging - Hosteria Rincon de Puembo, Puembo

DAY 2 - Saturday, March 4
- Mid-Morning:
  - Check out of hotel; travel by bus to Quito
  - Tour of Quito historic district
    - Plaza de la Independencia
    - Iglesia La Compañía
    - Plaza San Francisco
    - Iglesia San Francisco
- Afternoon:
  - Depart Quito; travel by bus to Cayambe
  - Visit Equator Monument at Cayambe
  - Travel by bus to Otavalo
  - Shop at Plaza de Ponchos
  - Check in at Casa Mojanda
- Logistics:
  - Breakfast - at Hosteria Rincon de Puembo
  - Lunch - Restaurante Tianguez, Quito
  - Supper - Casa Mojanda, Otavalo
  - Lodging - Casa Mojanda, Otavalo

DAY 3 - Sunday, March 5
- Morning:
  - Visit Mojanda lakes
  - Experience the páramo ecosystem with a hike
- Afternoon:
  - Travel to Agato for program at traditional back-strap weaving shop of Miguel Andrango; also tour the garden of Miguel
  - Travel to Peguche for a program at the Ñanda Mañachi music shop
- Logistics:
DAY 4 - Monday, March 6

- Morning:
  - Program on sustainable community coffee production in the region of the Rio Intag with Iván Suárez
- Afternoon:
  - Continuation of coffee program in the Rio Intag region
- Logistics:
  - Breakfast - Casa Mojanda
  - Lunch - at Rio Lindo (included in the program)
  - Supper - Casa Mojanda
  - Lodging - Casa Mojanda, Otavalo

DAY 5 - Tuesday, March 7

- Morning:
  - Check-out of Casa Mojanda; travel by bus to Cayambe
  - Tour commercial rose production facilities of Rosadex
  - Visit nearby Hacienda La Compañía; tour of casa, chapel and show room
- Afternoon:
  - Travel by bus to Wildsumaco Lodge
  - Experience the transition from the páramo and cloud forest ecosystems, to the upper Amazon along the way
- Logistics:
  - Breakfast - Casa Mojanda
  - Lunch - Hacienda La Compañía, Cayambe
  - Supper - Wildsumaco Lodge, Pacto Sumaco
  - Lodging - Wildsumaco Lodge

DAY 6 - Wednesday, March 8

- Morning:
  - Check out of Wild Sumaco Lodge
  - Program at Pacto Sumaco to learn about sustainable community development, the forest bank, and agricultural practices
- Afternoon:
  - Travel by bus to Yachana Lodge
  - Visit cacao processing center along the way
  - Check into Yachana Lodge
- Logistics:
  - Breakfast - Wildsumaco Lodge
  - Lunch - Wildsumaco Lodge
  - Supper - Yachana Lodge
  - Lodging - Yachana Lodge
DAY 7 - Thursday, March 9
• Morning:
  o Rainforest hike
• Afternoon:
  o Visit the Yachana Foundation school and training center
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - Yachana Lodge
  o Lunch - Yachana Lodge
  o Supper - Yachana Lodge
  o Lodging - Yachana Lodge

DAY 8 - Friday, March 10
• Morning:
  o Visit Nilo's traditional farm
  o Culinary experience at the lodge kitchen
• Afternoon:
  o Visit local village
    ▪ Participate in a cleansing ceremony
    ▪ Learn how to shoot a blowgun and throw a spear
    ▪ Learn how to make chicha
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - Yachana Lodge
  o Lunch - Yachana Lodge
  o Supper - Yachana Lodge
  o Lodging - Yachana Lodge

DAY 9 - Saturday, March 11
• Morning:
  o Check out of Yachana Lodge
  o Motor canoe to Coca
  o Fly to from Coca to Quito (Flight TBD)
• Afternoon:
  o Travel by bus to Illinizas Lodge near El Chaupi
  o Learn about rural living, chagras, and potato farming
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast – Yachana Lodge
  o Lunch - Restaurant at Hotel La Misión, Coca
  o Supper - Illinizas Lodge
  o Lodging - Illinizas Lodge

DAY 10 - Sunday, March 12
• Morning:
  o Horseback ride in the páramo ecosystem in Illinizas Reserve
• Afternoon:
  o Continue horseback ride
  o Relax at the lodge
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - Illinizas Lodge
  o Lunch - chagra lunch in the field
  o Supper - Illinizas Lodge
  o Lodging - Illinizas Lodge
DAY 11 - Monday, March 13

• Morning:
  o Check out of Illinizas Lodge
    ▪ Pack one bag for flight to the Galapagos Islands
    ▪ Pack unneeded clothes, personal items, souvenirs, etc. to remain safely in storage at the Yachana office in Quito while we are at Galapagos
  o Travel by bus to Quito airport
    ▪ Purchase transit card at the airport ($20 per person)
    ▪ Pass through Galapagos luggage inspection
  o Fly to Galapagos Islands, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, Isla San Cristobol (Flight TDB)
    ▪ Pass through Immigration
    ▪ Pay Galapagos National Park entrance fee ($100 per person)
    ▪ Meet our guide: Raul Salazar
  o Travel by bus to hotel and check in

• Afternoon:
  o Visit Interpretation Center at Galapagos National Park
  o Walk to Frigatebird Hill for bird-watching and to view Darwin Bay
  o Snorkel at Darwin Bay
  o Sunset swim at Carola Beach

• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - Illinizas Lodge
  o Lunch – Restaurant at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
  o Supper - Restaurant at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
  o Lodging – Hotel TBD, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno

DAY 12 - Tuesday, March 14

• Morning:
  o Check out of hotel
  o Travel by boat to Kicker Rock for deep water snorkeling
  o Swim at beach at Pucuna Point and walk along lava flows

• Afternoon
  o Travel by boat to Isla Santa Fe for bird-watching
  o Continue by boat to Puerto Ayora, Isla Santa Cruz
  o Transfer by bus to hotel and check in

• Logistics:
  o Breakfast – at Hotel TBD at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
  o Lunch – on the boat
  o Supper - Restaurant at Puerto Ayora
  o Lodging - Hotel TBD, Puerto Ayora

DAY 13 - Wednesday, March 15

• Morning:
  o Travel by bus to the Isla Santa Cruz highlands
  o Experience the Scalesea forest at the Los Gemelos volcanic craters
  o Visit El Chato Reserve to observe the Galápagos tortoise in its native habitat
  o Walk through lava tunnels

• Afternoon
  o Return by bus to Puerto Ayora
  o Walk to Turtuga Bay through the coastal cactus and mangrove zones for wildlife-watching and bird-watching
  o Swim and kayaking at the beach
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - at Hotel TBD at Puerto Ayora
  o Lunch - Rancho Primicias adjoining El Chato Reserve
    o Supper - Restaurant at Puerto Ayora
  o Lodging - Hotel TBD, Puerto Ayora

DAY 14 - Thursday, March 16

• Morning:
  o Check out of hotel
  o Travel by boat from Isla Santa Cruz to Puerto Villamil, Isla Isabela
    o Pay Isla Isabela transit fee ($5 per person)
  o Transfer by bus to hotel and check in
  o Visit the brackish water lagoons
  o Visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center
• Afternoon:
  o Bay tour to Las Tintoreras by small boat; observe sea birds
  o Walk on the islets for wildlife-watching and bird-watching, and to observe lava flows
  o Snorkeling
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - at hotel TBD at Puerto Ayora
  o Lunch - TBD at Puerto Villamil
  o Supper - Restaurant at Puerto Villamil
  o Lodging - Hotel TBD, Puerto Villamil

DAY 15 - Friday, March 17

• Morning:
  o Travel by bus to the highlands of Isla Isabela
  o Hike to the crater rim of Volcán Sierra Negra (elevation 3469 ft.)
  o Visit Campo Duro restaurant and giant tortoise gardens
• Afternoon:
  o Travel by bus to the beach at Concha de Perla for swimming and snorkeling
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - at hotel TBD at Puerto Villamil
  o Lunch - Campo Duro, Isabela highlands
  o Supper - Restaurant at Puerto Villamil
  o Lodging - Hotel TBD, Puerto Villamil

DAY 16 - Saturday, March 18

• Morning:
  o Check out of hotel
  o Travel by boat to Isla Baltra; then board a bus to the airport
• Afternoon:
  o Fly from Baltra to Quito (Flight TBD)
  o Remain at the airport in readiness for flight home
• Evening:
  o Fly from Quito to Houston (UA1036, 11:55pm - 5:30am)
• Logistics:
  o Breakfast - at hotel at Puerto Villamil
  o Lunch - airport at Baltra
  o Supper - airport at Quito
  o Lodging – sleep on the flight
DAY 17 - Sunday, March 19

• Morning:
  o Arrival at Houston at 5:30am
  o Pass through US Immigration & Customs
  o Fly from Houston to Tulsa (UA6244, 8:50am - 10:15am)
  o Travel to Stillwater in OSU vans

• Logistics:
  o Breakfast – at Houston airport
CHECKLIST FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- One “check-on” luggage (max. length+width+height of 62 in.; max. wt. of 50 lbs.)
- One “carry-on” luggage (max length+width+height of 45 in.; max. wt. of 30 lbs.)
- Passport
- Airline ticket confirmation (with confirmation number and itinerary)
- Money (cash & credit card)
- Passport / money pouch
- Trip booklet
- Journal
- Pens and pencils
- Watch
- Sunglasses
- Medications
  - Pain relief
  - Anti-diarrheal
  - Antacids
  - Prescriptions
- First aid kit (band-aids, antibiotic cream, antiseptic wash, ankle wrap, etc.)
- Toiletries (tooth brush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Zip-lock bag (7.5 X 8 in. max) with small-size toiletries (3.4 oz. max) in carry-on bag
- Hand-sanitizer or moist sanitary wipes
- Insect repellent (pump spray or lotion)
- Sun screen
- Lip balm
- Toilet paper (small amount in zip-lock bag)
- Extra zip-lock bags to protect items from dampness (camera, books, journal)
- Towel (small)
- Camera (with memory cards, batteries, battery charger)
- Clothing (lightweight, loose-fitting, quick-drying, good for layering)
  - Long pants
  - Shorts
  - Short-sleeved shirts & t-shirts
  - Long-sleeved shirts for cool weather
  - Underwear and socks
  - Swim suit
  - Cap or hat
  - Rain jacket or parka, and rain pants (lightweight; breathable)
  - Jacket (lightweight)
  - Sweater, sweatshirt or fleece top
  - Gloves (thin; for mountain hikes and horseback riding)
- Plastic bag for dirty laundry
- Lightweight boots for hiking
- Walking shoes or sports sandals
- Sandals or flip-flops for the seashore
- Flashlight (small)
- Alarm clock (portable or cell phone)
- Binoculars
- Field guides; travel guide book
- Snack food (granola bars, peanuts, candy, etc.)
- Open mind
- Positive attitude
- Enthusiasm