

North Central College
Cardinal Destination Course Abroad
(May Term)

ECUADOR

Darwin and the Galapagos

TENTATIVE DATES

May 12-24, 2020

Led by Prof. Gregory Ruthig

CARD 261-1

Course Description

In this course, we will follow Darwin's footsteps as we observe first-hand how natural selection is studied by modern day researchers. The trip begins in the capital city of Quito, Ecuador, where we will spend two days exploring the old city including standing on the equator. From Quito, we will fly to the Galapagos Islands where we will spend eight days living on the Golondrina, a sixteen passenger boat, on an itinerary that will take us to nine of the Galapagos Islands. We will hike on the islands and snorkel in the ocean to experience a landscape and an ecological community that is found nowhere else in the world.

Itinerary Highlights

- Observing penguins, sea lions, marine iguanas, giant tortoises and countless other animals in their natural environment
- Snorkeling through tropical waters with diverse marine life
- Hiking into the craters of ancient volcanoes
- Crossing the equator and visiting the artisanal market in the historic district of Quito.



CARDINAL DESTINATION COURSE ABROAD (MAY TERM)

A Cardinal Destination Course Abroad (CDCA) is a short-term, faculty-led, group international travel course that takes place in May Term and has a linked prerequisite course in the preceding Spring Semester.

ENROLLMENT STEPS (To participate in a CDCA, you must enroll in and successfully complete its prerequisite course in Spring Semester 2020.)

- Meet with your academic advisor to understand how enrollment in the CDCA and linked prerequisite Spring Semester course will affect your academic plan or Individualized Transition Plan (ITP).
- Register ON MERLIN for the spring semester course, BIOL 250-1 (3 credits).
- Register ON MERLIN for the linked CDCA, CARD 261-1, (1 credit).
 - April 22, 2019: Priority Registration for 2019-2020 academic year begins.
 - September 15, 2019: Enrollment for CDCA closes (or before, if course capacity is met).
- If you are not in a spring semester linked course, you must have instructor consent to enroll in the CDCA.

CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION (CGE) REGISTRATION

- **September 16, 2019:** Students enrolled in a CDCA will begin a registration process through the Center for Global Education.
- **December 1, 2019:** Proof of a valid passport is due. (Current passports must be valid through November 2020 for May term travel, six (6) months past your return travel date.)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Course and Itinerary Questions

- Professor Gregory Ruthig, Associate Professor of Biology
grruthig@noctrl.edu, 630.637.5186

General CDCA Questions

- Kimberly Larsson, Executive Director, CGE
kmlarsson@noctrl.edu, 630.637.5289

ESTIMATED COST & PAYMENTS

- The overall cost estimate (airfare + program fee) for this course abroad will be available during spring term 2019.

CDCA TUITION

- All May Term CDCAs are worth one (1) academic credit.
- The one (1) credit tuition fee for a May Term CDCA is waived for any student enrolled full-time at North Central College during the 2020 Spring Semester.
- Contact the Office of Financial Aid *early in the spring semester* to inquire about financial aid options for May term courses abroad.

PROGRAM FEE

- **September 16-30, 2019:** \$500 non-refundable deposit due to North Central College
- **March 23, 2020:** Program fee balance billed to your student account

AIRFARE

- **October 2019:** \$500 non-refundable airfare deposit billed to your student account
- **January-March 2020:** Balance of airfare billed to your student account

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

- Refund schedules for airfare depend on individual airlines; faculty leaders will inform all participants of the relevant deadlines and policies.
- If an enrolled student withdraws from the CDCA *before March 15, 2020*, then 50% of the remaining balance of the program fee will be refunded.
- If an enrolled student withdraws from the CDCA *after March 15, 2020*, then 100% of the program fee is forfeited.
- Withdrawing from a CDCA *does not* withdraw you from the linked spring semester course.
- If you withdraw from the linked spring semester course, you will be withdrawn from the CDCA and you will be responsible for any associated fees (airline or program fees) as outlined in the Cancellation and Refund Policy above.
- If you *fail* the linked spring semester course, you will be withdrawn from the CDCA and responsible for any associated fees (airline or program fees) as outlined in the Cancellation and Refund Policy above.
- Successful completion of the spring semester linked course is **REQUIRED** for participation in the May Term international travel section.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- North Central College provides all students enrolled in a CDCA a primary emergency medical insurance policy for the course dates abroad.
- Every student participant is required to abide by the College policies as outlined in the North Central College Student Handbook and by the expectations outlined in the course syllabus. If, in the judgement of a faculty/staff leader, a student has violated the course expectations or College policy as stated in the Student Handbook, the student may be sent home at his/her own expense. In such circumstances, a student's parents may also be notified and additional disciplinary action may be taken by the College upon the student's return to the United States.
- All CDCA enrolled students will be required to attend a pre-departure information session.