

FORM VERSION: 5/95  
DATE REVISED: SEPTEMBER 25, 1998

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** Biology 195E - Field Studies in Tropical Biology

**UNIT VALUE:** 1, 2 or 3    **MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:**32, 64, 96

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** Appropriate language and computational skills.

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:** None

**PREREQUISITE:**

**COREQUISITE:**

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:**

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

Field study of the fauna and flora of selected tropical regions, with emphasis placed upon field identification, observation and interpretation of behavioral and ecological interrelationships of living things to their environment and to one another. See *Class Schedule for locality to be visited. Fee charged.*

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The successful student will:

1. come to appreciate the unique importance of tropical biomes in terms of their complexity and unparalleled species diversity, and the urgency for their preservation on a global basis.
2. gain an appreciation for tropical biota as sources of pharmaceuticals and other products important to human welfare.
3. study the selected tropical region with emphasis on climax biomes such as tropical rain forests and cloud forests, and how these have been and are being affected by technological and non-technological human enterprises.

4. identify major species and make field observations on tropical flora and fauna as seen, and undertake readings about important species present but not observable.
5. produce a field journal including daily written observations, sketches and photographs, plus information drawn from relevant books and periodicals as available in the field as well as in the college library upon return.
6. be able to understand the complexities of natural environments in which tropical plants and animals live and in doing so they will be able to analyze, discuss, compare and contrast the various environmental factors that contribute to the ecology of species under investigation in specific habitats visited.

#### **CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

Each field class may have a different itinerary and cover different geographical regions and habitats in which tropical biology is studied. However, a common body of knowledge would include an understanding of tropical biology and major groups of selected life forms of the region visited including:

1. Tropical biome complexity, species diversity, and their preservation.
2. Tropical biota resources used in pharmaceuticals and other products important to human welfare.
3. Climax biomes of tropical rain forests and cloud forests and how they are being affected by humans.
4. Tropical species recognition.
5. Field journal production and resources.
6. Natural environments of tropical plants and animals including the complexity of abiotic and biotic environmental factors that contribute to their ecology.

## **REQUIRED READINGS:**

College-level references including periodical and book sources. Varies according to locale; a travelling library of field guides and references will be brought to the class for use in identification and expanding upon the field log. Other material, such as instructor-generated handouts may also be required readings.

Example: Janzen, D.H. Costa Rican Natural History. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

## **SUGGESTED READINGS:**

A large selection of suggested readings is available to students (e.g., texts by Audubon, Peterson guides as well as other location-oriented field guides).

## **REQUIRED WRITINGS:**

A field notebook -"LOG" - is required of all students. Writings in the log should include: abiotic and biotic parameters observed, associations and behaviors studied, and a record of species identified. The quantity of writing will vary with the number of units; a minimum of 12 pages or 2,000 words of writing per unit is expected. Proper grammar and linguistic style are required.

## **OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classe.** Outside reading assignments include: predeparture readings in text and other course materials, as well as readings of course materials during trip, study of lecture notes, and preparation and review of field log.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

**Check all that apply:**

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

Lecture-laboratory; in-depth field study.

**This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes  No

**If yes, check all that apply.** (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS:**

Participation in the daily class activities	= 60%
Writings including the "log" (field journal)	= 40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>=100%</b>

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

YES  NO  Number of times course may be taken for credit 4 times

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable: 58161(c)(2)(B)

**CONTACT PERSON: DAN SOURBEER, x.2775**