

WFSC/ENTO 300: FIELD STUDIES (3) Summer, 2013

Location: Archbold Tropical Research and Education Center

Meeting Times: May 18 – June 09, 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

SYLLABUS

Dr. Tom Lacher
Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department
Nagle Hall 210
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2258
tlacher@tamu.edu
979-845-5777

Dr. James B. Woolley
Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-2475
979-845-9349
jimwoolley@tamu.edu
Office and Lab: Rooms 305, 310, 311, Heep Center, West Campus

Prerequisites: Minimum GPA of 2.25, background in natural of social sciences disciplines; preferred background, ecology, systematics, behavior or natural resources coursework.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes: The primary objective of this portion of our Study Abroad Program is to provide students with realistic experience in field research by having them design and conduct independent, group research projects. Students also methods for collection and preservation of plants and animals for research, methods for working with live animals, and how to identify plants and animals collected during the course of the research. Teams of 3-5 students will design and conduct the research projects. The final product is a scientific format research paper, collaboratively written by all group members. Grading is based upon the ability to define project objectives, describe methodology, clearly present the results in both text and tables/figures, and synthesize the result in the context of relevant literature. We also assess the ability of students to work in a collaborative group process.

Textbook or Resource Material: Materials are contingent upon the research interests of the individual students. Relevant reserve readings will be made available during the class. We will have a small library and digital files of all relevant reading materials on Dominica.

Grading: Students will be graded on the quality and content of the group project report submitted at the end of the stay in Dominica. Project reports are due as a pdf file and a Word document by June 08.

There is no assigned textbook. Library facilities are available at the research station in Dominica for students to use for their group projects.

See attached Tentative Schedule for Dominica. This provides approximate times available for work on group projects. Group projects will be designed by the students during the Spring semester of 2013, and the nature of group projects can vary widely depending on the interests of the students. Group projects may involve marine or terrestrial organisms, conservation issues, agriculture, forestry, soil and/or water quality, or culture. Thus, at any one time we may have one group of students conducting a survey of marine organisms at the coast, another group examining foraging behavior of hummingbirds at the research station, and a third group measuring water quality in several local streams.

The following list includes titles of group projects conducted during this program over the past few years:

- Thermoregulation in Microchiroptera: a Study of a Resident Population of *Tadarida brasiliensis* at Massacre Cave, Dominica, West Indies
- Sea urchin density along a depth gradient at Rodney's Rock and Champagne Bay, Dominica
- Comparison of Pool and Riffle Fauna in the Check Hall River
- Ectoparasites of Dominican Bats
- Echolocation call sequences of the Dominican bats *Molossus molossus* and *Tadarida brasiliensis*
- Roosting site preferences of 5 species of bats in Dominica
- Interspecific competition in *Stegastes fuscus* (dusky damselfish)
- A field guide to the reef fish of Tarou Point
- Coral diversity at Champagne Reef and Scott's Head
- Anole density and biomass in Dominica
- The effects of eco-tourism on Dominica
- Does management of the rainforest change bird composition?
- Comparison of beetle diversity between the canopy and ground in a secondary rainforest
- Analysis of prawn habitat and distribution in the Check Hall River

- A floral guide to SCEPTRE
- Fern guide to SCEPTRE
- The incidence of citrus blackfly on citrus growth in the wild and in banana groves

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

- **Academic Integrity Statement and Policy** (All syllabi should contain a section that states the Aggie Honor Code and refers the student to the Honor Council Rules and Procedures on the web: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>.)

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”