SPRING TERM

Practical Approaches to Sustainability in Latin America AND Health Care in Costa Rica

Sustainability Courses:

Sustainable Development in Rural and Urban Latin America

This course explores the dynamic context of Latin America and its focus on finding solutions for sustainability. Urban and rural development issues and cases are discussed with special interest on the innovating example of Costa Rica and its many established and emerging sustainable development policies and practices. Costa Rica will be compared regionally while giving students a chance to appreciate and use the key Indicators for identifying progress and pitfalls in sustainability. It is designed to provide historical understanding as well as the current context surrounding urban and rural development.

This is a distance learning and online course, yet uniquely, students will be introduced to the professor's own sustainability story whilst taking them on a journey to appreciate and critically explore broad sustainability systems thinking, from the macro to local level. Then finally, in the inspiring setting of Finca La Flor students will be introduced to local projects and encouraged to participate in the growth of sustainability, both during your time with us and beyond. We hope to help motivate future sustainability professionals and guardians of the environment, and Costa Rica with its diverse environmental management experience and abundant natural beauty is the perfect place to do so.

Responsible and Sustainable Tourism

We humans like to travel. Throughout history our species has moved from place to place, for discovery and exploration; for relocation and colonization; or simply out of curiosity. We love to travel but as global citizens, we need to do it responsibly and sustainably. How do we lower our footprint? How to choose our destinations and select our accommodations? What are the most sustainable means of transportation available? What should we eat and how should we behave to be responsible travelers?

At ICDS we have prepared this online course, set within the Costa Rican context, with case studies based on the country's unique model of sustainable tourism. We explore the concept of responsible tourism, which seeks to minimize negative impacts and improve host communities' well-being. We also highlight some of the most universal features of tourism, such as global standards for ethical and responsible travel, and discuss local and international efforts towards sustainable tourism. Finally, we look at COVID-19's impacts on travel and explore adaptations implemented throughout the world.

Health Courses:

Health Care in Latin America

This course is intended to create a unique interdisciplinary professional experience for students interested in Latin American and Caribbean health issues. Within the field of public and private health, its particular focus is on public health assessment strategies. Through this course, students will be exposed to current challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean and thus able to reach an understanding of the way global public health issues unfold in the region.

Health and Vulnerable Populations in Latin America

This course provides an introduction to the social determinants of health and their impact on the health outcomes of vulnerable populations. The reasons why these populations are not vulnerable themselves, but rather how current socio-economic context makes them more vulnerable to disease compared to other populations will be discussed.

