



## Spring 2025 Latin American Studies 390/403 Course

### “Migration and the Environment in Central America and the Caribbean” with Spring Break Trip to Costa Rica

**Overview:** “Latin American Studies (LTAM) 390/403, Migration and the Environment in Central America and the Caribbean,” is a 2025 spring semester course with a spring break trip to Costa Rica (March 9-16, 2025). The Costa Rica trip is administered by the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC Chapel Hill with generous support from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**Eligibility and prerequisites:** Sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students are eligible to apply. Prerequisites include proficiency in written and oral Spanish and/or SPAN 204 and a 2.75 minimum GPA.

**Applications:** Students must apply to the course to be admitted. Application deadline is Friday October 4, 2024 at 11:59 PM EST. Candidates will be contacted for an interview the week of Oct. 7-14. Selected participants will be notified by October 18. To apply visit <https://isa.unc.edu/costa-rica-application/>.

**About the Course:** LTAM 403 is a 3-credit course that meets on Mondays at 2:25 – 4:55pm in the FedEx Global Education Center. The course focuses on human migration and the environment in Central America and the Caribbean, with climate change as a key theme. The course will examine how individuals, communities, and governments have shaped environments and responded to the impacts of climate change and migration in the region. Students learn from diverse sources, including documentaries, oral histories and texts created by practitioners, impacted individuals, and scholars.

**About the Spring Break Trip to Costa Rica:** The course will focus on Costa Rica as a case study. Like other Central American countries, Costa Rica is highly exposed to climate risks. Yet Costa Rica is known as an international model for mitigating the impacts of extreme weather as the first tropical country to stop and reverse deforestation, producing about 99 percent of its electricity from renewable sources. Costa Rica is also the Latin American country with the highest number of immigrants compared to the size of its population and has a long history of receiving newcomers from other parts of Latin America. Over spring break, students will travel to Turrialba, a town in the Central Valley of Cartago Province in Costa Rica. Turrialba is home to CATIE Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center Institute, a center for studying climate change and the environment. At CATIE students will participate in workshops and learn from Costa Rican scientists and practitioners about reforestation, decarbonization, biodiversity, and ecotourism efforts. Students will also learn about Costa Rica’s global migration history and its connection to land use, labor practices and environmental conditions.



**Participants:** 8 students will be accompanied by Dr. Hannah Gill, Course Instructor and Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas (ISA) and Brianna Gilmore, ISA Program Associate.

**Expected Costs:** The estimated program cost of the trip is \$1240. Selected participants will need to pay a non-refundable enrollment fee of \$200 upon acceptance in the program, due **October 25, 2024**.

The program cost includes:

- 7 nights in hotels
- 17 meals
- Transportation
- Guide, speaker, and entrance fees
- UNC GeoBlue Health insurance

The program cost does **not** include:

- Roundtrip airfare and airline baggage fees
- Passport and/or visa fees
- Tips for guides and service providers (approximately \$80-100 USD)
- 3 meals (\$15-20/meal)

**Airfare:** Participants are responsible for booking and paying their own round-trip airfare to Costa Rica. Participants are encouraged to insure their airline ticket purchase.

**Timeline:**

- October 4, 2024: Application deadline.
- October 7-14: Interviews for candidates.
- October 18, 2024: Selected participants will be notified.
- After October 18: Course instructors will register selected students in LTAM 390/403.
- October 25: \$200 deposit due.
- Wednesday, October 30: Class Orientation 7pm Global Education Center Room 1005.
- By Nov 11: Students purchase airline tickets.
- Dec. 15, 2024: The rest of the trip payment is due.
- Jan. 6, 2025: Deadline for cancellations with a 100% refund (not including \$200 deposit), \* and deadline to submit Geoblue insurance information to Hannah Gill via email ([hgill@email.unc.edu](mailto:hgill@email.unc.edu)).
- March 9-16, 2025: Trip to Costa Rica.

\* Refunds do not include the cost of the airline ticket, which students purchase independently.

**Questions?** Contact Course Instructor Dr. Hannah Gill, [hgill@email.unc.edu](mailto:hgill@email.unc.edu)

**To learn more and apply, visit:** <https://isa.unc.edu/costa-rica-application/>