



McCOY COLLEGE OF
Science, Mathematics
& Engineering

SUMMER FIELD COURSES

Field courses at MSU Texas let you understand ecological and evolutionary processes through first-hand experience in outdoor environments. These courses provide a unique opportunity to learn about ecology in an intensive outdoor classroom.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Department of Biology
msutexas.edu/biology
940-397-4163



PANAMA

Tropical Rainforest Ecology



CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

Ecology and Field Zoology



TROPICAL RAINFOREST ECOLOGY IN PANAMA

This course provides classroom instruction on the ecology, plant life, animal life, and indigenous peoples of the neotropics, focusing on Central America, and includes travel to Panama to explore the rainforest in person. Students spend five days in or around Gamboa in the former Panama Canal Zone, including a visit to see the canal in operation. The group then travels to Punta Patiño on the Pacific coast of Panama to spend one day and night at the native Emberá village of Mogue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Dr. Jon Scales, Chair, Biology
jon.scales@msutexas.edu

Dr. Bill Cook, Professor of Biology
william.cook@msutexas.edu



COURSE INFORMATION

Tropical Rainforest Ecology is offered during the Summer II semester in July of even-numbered years. The next available course is in 2020. Includes two weeks of classroom instruction followed by 12 days in Panama.

REQUIREMENTS

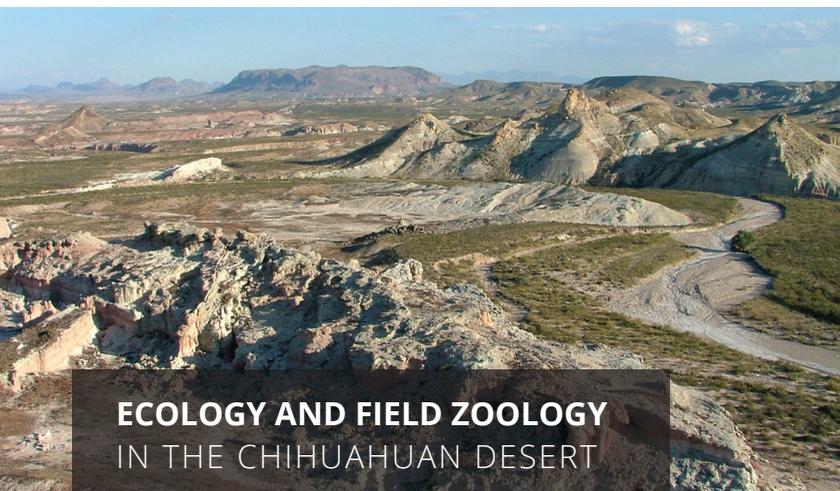
- Enrollment in Tropical Rainforest Ecology (BIOL 4693 or 5693)
- Passport and ability to visit another country
- Textbook and field notebook
- Field apparel such as hiking boots, hydration pack, and dry bag
- Camera with telephoto lens and binoculars highly recommended
- Immunizations/malarial medication recommended

Past student project topics include:

- Replanting tropical plants for reforestation projects
- Planting native trees
- Building bird feeding stations
- Cleaning greenhouses

TOTAL CREDITS: 3 credits (graduate credit available)

APPROXIMATE COST: \$2,100



ECOLOGY AND FIELD ZOOLOGY IN THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

This course provides field experience at MSU's Dalquest Desert Research Station in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas. The diversity of flora on the DDRS reflects the gradient in elevation between the uplands and canyons. Fauna include specialized invertebrates and numerous vertebrate species. Students begin by exploring DDRS and its canyons to learn the fascinating ecology of desert ecosystems, then the basics of performing research on desert-dwelling organisms through independent field projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Dr. Matt Watson, Associate Professor of Biology
charles.watson@msutexas.edu

Dr. Ray Willis, Associate Professor of Biology
raymond.willis@msutexas.edu



COURSE INFORMATION

Ecology and Field Zoology are offered during the 3-week May mini-semester. Includes one week of intensive classroom instruction, four days at DDRS, then a week of group and individual presentations.

REQUIREMENTS

- Enrollment in Desert Ecology (BIOL 4673 or BIOL 5673) and Field Biology (BIOL 3033)
- Ability to spend four days at DDRS
- Field apparel such as hiking boots and hydration backpack

Past student project topics include:

- Arthropod diversity
- Mammal diversity
- Reptile diversity
- Predator/prey interactions
- Plant/animal interactions

TOTAL CREDITS: 3 to 6 (graduate credit available)

APPROXIMATE COST: \$1,000 (3 credits) to \$2,000 (6 credits)