



Costa Rica Center Fall 2019 Semester Course Listing & Descriptions

- Register for courses through the MY LIU portal: <https://my.liu.edu>.
- Students are charged a flat tuition rate for 12-18 credits. If students register for 19 credits and up, they will be charged an additional per credit rate. Students interested in registering for 19 or more credits must get permission from the Center Director and Dean.
- Students will have the opportunity to drop and add courses during the program change period in consultation with their advisor. The deadline is posted on the academic calendar: <http://liu.edu/Global/Global-Life>.
- Students who are pursuing minors should consider the minor-related courses indicated below in their academic planning/registration. The minor course requirements can be found at <http://liu.edu/Global/Academics/Global-Studies-Degree-Program>.
- Call or email Carlett Thomas, Director of Student Affairs & Administrative Services, with any questions or concerns at carlett.thomas@liu.edu or 516-299-3401.

Required Courses

GCOS 110 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Seminar (3 units)

Field Experience: Limon, Costa Rica

Gordon-Chipembere, Natasha

Moran, Sarah

GCOS 116 Foundations of Global Studies: Ecology (3 units)

Field Experience: S. Caribbean of Costa Rica and Bocas del Toro, Panama

Sylvester, Olivia

Moran, Sarah

GCOS 130 Foundation Year Orientation Seminar (3 units)

Field Experience: Community Engagement Projects in Costa Rica

Visiting students: before enrolling, you must clear this with your Promise Coach and the Costa Rica Center Director

Moran, Sarah

GCOS 170 Joining the Conversation: The Argumentative Essay (3 units)

Clark, Jessica

Moran, Sarah

All new students will be registered for the Beginner Spanish course. A language placement exam will be administered at the beginning of the semester and the course can be changed when the results are received.

GCOS 120 Beginner Communicative Spanish I (4 units)
Moran, Sarah

GCOS 220 Intermediate Communicative Spanish I (4 units)
Moran, Sarah

GCOS 320 Advanced Communicative Spanish I (4 units)
Moran, Sarah

Course Descriptions

Students who are pursuing minors should consider the minor-related courses indicated with the asterisk below in their academic planning/registration. The minor course requirements and their respective category (Category A and/or Category B) can be found at <http://liu.edu/Global/Academics/Global-Studies-Degree-Program>.

GCOS 110 Latin American and Caribbean Studies Seminar (3 units)

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Seminar is a three-unit course required in the fall semester of the Foundation Year. The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to the history and geography of the region; to examine current social, economic, political and environmental issues affecting the region; to explore different responses to these issues; and to assess in what ways these regional issues are manifestations of larger global issues. Short field trips in Costa Rica and a trip to another Central American country will allow students to gain a more specific, thorough, and intimate perspective by means of greater firsthand experience with some of these issues. Among the topics covered are colonialism and imperialism; resistance and revolution; poverty and migration; development and conservation; art and popular culture; and race, class, ethnicity, and gender.

GCOS 116 Foundations of Global Studies: Ecology (3 units)

Global Studies I introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Global Studies, key elements of ecological thinking as well as some of the world's most pressing environmental issues. Students learn about important theories, concepts and approaches to the study of the biosphere, including the scientific method, systems thinking and the anthropocene. In their engagement with critical environmental challenges and the search for sustainable solutions, students also learn about the interconnectedness of ecological issues and matters of economics, politics and culture. Classes combine the study of key texts, thought leaders, case

studies and audiovisual materials with experiential learning opportunities in Costa Rica and neighboring countries.

GCOS 130 Foundation Year Orientation Seminar (3 units)

This seminar introduces Foundation Year students to the program's theoretical foundations and practices, and provides students with concrete tools and skills to begin their studies in this international, experiential program. In the fall semester, students explore issues and expectations associated with being an LIU Global student, initially including an examination of experiential education theory, the program's mission in practice, as well as health and safety issues. This seminar's main goals are to create an educational context, both in and outside of the classroom; to discover and discuss new relevant insights regarding educational approaches and learning; to understand their development as LIU Global students and to access support resources; to reflect on cross-cultural adaptation and intercultural understanding in Costa Rica; and to teach students how to stay healthy and safe while abroad. Students develop and carry out a week-long group service learning project to have first-hand experiences related to the content and issues examined in the seminar.

GCOS 170 Joining the Conversation: The Argumentative Essay (3 units)

This course introduces students to the conventions of academic reading and writing. Starting with the assumption that good reading skills are vital to good writing, students learn to read carefully, developing strategies for understanding authors' assertions, perspective, and inferences. Responding critically to the texts that they have first learned to read closely, students then build their own arguments. In support of these arguments, students learn to write essays that are well-organized, free from unexamined assumptions or biases, and follow the conventions of academic English. Students also gain the capacity to integrate texts written by others into their essays, demonstrating their awareness of debates surrounding their topic and their ability to ethically cite the thinking of others.

Spanish Language (4 units)

Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Communicative Spanish language courses are taught each semester in Costa Rica. Students are required to take a four-unit language course in the fall and spring semesters.

GCOS 120 Beginner Communicative Spanish I (4 units)

Spanish classes for beginners have the goals of forming basic oral and written communication skills, as well as introducing the students to Latin culture. To achieve these goals, the students meet four times a week and also complete daily assignments, participate in field activities, live with a Costa Rican family, and interact daily with Spanish-speaking people.

GCOS 220 Intermediate Communicative Spanish I (4 units)

Spanish classes for intermediate students have the goals of improving intermediate oral and written communication skills already acquired and learning about Latin culture. To achieve these goals, students meet four times a week and also participate in field activities, complete daily assignments, live with a Costa Rican family, and interact daily with Spanish-speaking people.

GCOS 320 Advanced Communicative Spanish I (4 units)

Spanish classes for advanced students have the goals of improving specific advanced oral and written communication skills based on individual needs at the appropriate level. The students attend class, complete weekly assignments, live with a Costa Rican family, interact daily with Spanish-speaking people, and write about weekly readings related to topics of interest or Latin American literature.