

Roots, Fruits & Jamaican Ecologies SUMMER 2009: Permaculture Initiatives in the Blue and John Crow Mountains



Ambassabeth Cabins, Rio Grande Valley, March 2008

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary service-learning course is a partnership between Indiana University, the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT), and the community of Millbank in eastern Jamaica. Permaculture is a systems thinking approach meant to create productive and sustainable ways of living by integrating ecological knowledge, landscape design, organic gardening/farming, green architecture, and cultural practices/knowledge. In Jamaica students will participate in permaculture and service-learning initiatives associated with park management, sustainable agriculture, and ecotourism projects. Class sessions at IU provide students with an understanding of: 1) basic permaculture design principles; 2) cultural practices in rural Jamaican communities; 3) ecological characteristics of mountainous regions in the Caribbean; and 4) the ways in which humans (re)shape local environments. The seminars given in Jamaica with conservationists, park rangers, farmers, community leaders, herbalists, spiritualists, poets, and musicians place further emphasis on the *roots* and the *fruits* of indigenous agricultural, environmental, and cultural practices.

Course Requirements: *Course enrollment will be limited to a maximum of 15 students. Students must apply online and be accepted before course registration is permitted. A minimum 2.75 G.P.A. is required. Students must have or obtain a valid passport. A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is due by March 23, 2009 (applicable to the total course costs). Financial aid and scholarships may be available for qualifying students.*

Course Sponsors: IU Overseas Study, Residential Programs and Services, Foster International Living-Learning Center, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the IU Service-Learning office.

Fieldsites: Millbank & the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Jamaica, West Indies (May 31-June 14, 2009)

Instructors: Dr. John Galuska (Anthropologist, Ethnomusicologist, and Permaculturalist) & Brett Mattingly (Biologist)

Course Dates & Times: Summer Session I. (6-weeks)
May 12-June 18, 2009, M-F meeting times & location T.B.A.

Total Cost (Including ALL Course Fees & Credit Hours):
\$2,300 (Resident Students) \$2,500 (Non-Resident Students)
NOTE: Non-refundable \$300 deposit due: March 23, 2009

Course Credit: OVST-J497 Overseas Study in the Caribbean (3-credits), honored as L-426 Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Culture Studies (A-list)

Extended Registration Deadline: February 20, 2009

NOTE: Course application & authorization required

Additional Course Info:

John Galuska: jgaluska@indiana.edu, 855-6215