

## Ecuador: *an agro-ecotourism experience*

**Professor:** Dr. Scott A. Kimball

Email: skimball@bakeru.edu

Phone: 785.594.4563

Office: Boyd Science Center, Mulvane 229

Office hours: by appointment

### Course Description:

This course will introduce students to sustainable farming in the highlands of northern Ecuador. Ecuador, straddling the equator and the northern Andes mountains, is widely recognized as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. Students will live and work on a small farm, the Finca Orgánica San Antonio, situated in the Ecuadorian highlands and encompassing primary montane cloud forest intersected by a small river and waterfall. Located at nearly 6000ft. in elevation, the Finca specializes in vegetable, fruit, sugar cane, and coffee production for local markets. Students will participate in farm activities and will work to identify local species of plants and animals with an eye toward developing interpretive material for our hosts to use with future farm visitors. In addition to farm activities, students will visit nearby parks for guided natural history walks and local craft/food markets to learn more about the Ecuadorian culture. *Prerequisite: none.*

*\* Note: Students registering for this trip should expect to share accommodations with fellow students. Experiences on the farm may lead to discomfort through exposure to sun, heat, rain, humidity, biting insects, and physical exertion. As you anticipate these experiences, please carefully consider your attitude and abilities.*

### Required Text:

- TBD

**Course Objectives:** Students completing this course should be able to:

- Understand the local dynamics of sustainable farming in Ecuador.
- Understand the role of agrotourism and ecotourism in the sustainability of natural systems and local cultures.
- Identify important and distinctive flora and fauna of the Finca Orgánica San Antonio.
- Appreciate the value of an intimate knowledge of place to the persistence of sustainable farming.

### Grading:

This course is graded as Pass/No Credit, so full participation in course activities will determine your success. Prior to our departure for Ecuador, the group will meet to discuss the course learning objectives. Students are expected to prepare for these meetings by reading assigned materials as indicated ahead of class. Students will engage in topical discussions outlining agro-ecotourism activities in Ecuador. Failure to participate in at least 70% of activities will constitute course failure.

### Attendance/Make-up Policy:

Attendance is mandatory and expected, but certain circumstances may require an isolated absence. Because this course is graded as Pass/Fail, there is no make-up work for missed classes. However, failure to participate in at least 70% of course activities will result in a failing grade.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Baker University is committed to providing “reasonable accommodations” in keeping with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act of 1992. Access Services coordinates accommodations and services for all eligible students with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations and have not contacted Access Services, please do so as soon as possible. Access Services is located on the Baldwin City campus in the Office of Student Academic Success (in Collins Library (lower level); 785-594-8352; [sunny.allen@bakeru.edu](mailto:sunny.allen@bakeru.edu)). Information about Access Services can also be found at [www.bakeru.edu/sas](http://www.bakeru.edu/sas). If accommodations have been approved by Access Services, please communicate with your professor(s) regarding your accommodations to coordinate services.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own work and provide appropriate credit to the authors of works used by the student to complete course work. Please review the student handbook for a full description of the University’s policy on academic misconduct.

*From the Student Handbook:* Baker University expects students and professors to have solely completed or prepared the work or research that bears their name, and to acknowledge the materials and sources of others.

Students

1. Have the responsibility to do their own academic work.
2. Must acknowledge sources of their materials and material that is the work of others.
3. Have the responsibility to inquire of the professor when they are uncertain as to what constitutes proper acknowledgment.
4. Have the responsibility to inquire of the professor as to what materials and aids are permitted in testing and research work.
5. Have an obligation to know their rights and responsibilities as delineated in the Baker University Student Handbook.
6. Have the responsibility to know the University’s position with respect to academic misconduct as set forth in [the student handbook].

**Credit Hour Definition and Associated Course Expectations:** Consistent with best practices in higher education, Baker University subscribes to the federal definition of the “credit hour” endorsed by the Higher Learning Commission. Driven by intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement, the “credit hour” is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom (or direct faculty) instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work per week for the duration of the course enrollment period. A 3-credit-hour course, for example, requires approximately 45 classroom contact hours, roughly 90 out-of-class work hours and approximately 135 total instructional hours over the course of a 15-week semester. However, because this course is offered on a condensed travel schedule, we will meet the credit hour definitions through a combination of class meeting times (3 meetings @ 3 hrs. ea. = 9 hrs.), out-of-class reading/presentations (= 10 hours) and on-site travel experiences (9 days @ 13 hrs. per day = 117 hrs.) for a total of 136 hours of total course time.

## Proposed Itinerary (subject to change):

Dates	Subject
Monday, Jan 6	meetings and discussion of course content (10:00am-12:00pm)
Thursday, Jan 9	flight to Quito, Ecuador; travel to Finca Orgánica San Antonio
Thursday, Jan 9 – Saturday, Jan 18	Finca Orgánica San Antonio and environs
Monday, Jan 13	visit Plaza Gutiérrez and Cabuya tour; swim at hot springs pools
Wednesday, Jan 15	visit Siempre Verde cloud forest and Sacha Pacho Waterfalls
Saturday, Jan 18	travel to Quito; visit Otavalo market <i>en route</i> to Quito
Sunday, Jan 19	shopping/sight-seeing in Quito
Monday, Jan 20	return to Kansas City
Thursday, Jan 23	meeting and debriefing of course experience (12:30-3:30pm); photo slideshows and storytelling

## Course Budget:

Item	Description	Cost/person	Course Costs
Flight	MCI to Quito, Ecuador, roundtrip	\$1,000	
Hotel	one night in Quito Hostel	\$25	
Quito Dinners	2 evening meals at Hostel	\$35	
Room/Board @ the Finca	room + 2-3 meals/per person x 9 nights	\$455	
Transportation - to/from Finca	Quito to Otavalo + Otavalo to Finca (\$250 ea.)		\$600
Transportation - Hotel to Airport	Quito to Airport		\$90
Visit to Siempre Verde	includes transportation, guide, and breakfast	\$20	\$70
Visit to Plaza Gutiérrez/Cabuya	includes transportation, guided tour, lunch	\$35	
Cricket/Trout Farm	choose one, includes lunch	\$15	
Apiculture	@ Finca	\$10	
Local Foods Cooking	@ Finca	\$10	
Guide/Translator	10 days @ \$50/day		\$500
Discretionary Funds	various tips/fees	\$200	
Carbon offsets for travel		\$20	
Total		\$1,825	\$1,260
<b>Total Cost per Student (10 students):</b>		<b>\$1,951</b>	