

## BIOL282L: Tropical Ecology Research

Introduction to the study of organismal-environmental relationships in tropical terrestrial habitats through a group research project and individual research projects. Soil structure and nutrients, microbial communities, forest analysis, and leaf-litter arthropod and amphibian surveys are conducted. Each student will prepare and deliver several natural history presentations and a written or verbal final report of findings. (NS)

### Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Conduct a scientific exploration in a logical and appropriate manner.
2. Correctly read and interpret biological information in books, journals and the media.
3. Understand the basic themes and concepts of tropical ecology, including the scope of ecology, abiotic and biotic factors, ecology of individuals, interactions, population ecology, community ecology, ecosystems, succession, and conservation biology.
4. Process information and experiences in the form of short natural history presentations and demonstrate an ability to synthesize concepts, facts and ideas into coherent, independent work.
5. Discuss and express ideas and information, applying what they have assimilated from readings, laboratory experiences and field work.
6. Build a foundation for further study and educated decision-making in biology.
7. Connect the overall concepts of tropical biology to their local environments and daily lives.

Credits: 5

Prerequisites: Eligibility for both ENGL& 101 and MATH 090/091.

Program: **Biology**