

Darwin and the Galapagos – May 2010
Study Away Program
Furman University

(Course Description – as of 16 March 2009)

Darwin's evolutionary ideas revolutionized biology and western civilization. In this course, students will study Darwin's contributions, visit the Galapagos Islands that inspired his evolutionary ideas, and examine some of the developments in evolutionary biology that have occurred in the 200 years since the publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. No other contribution from biology has had as far-reaching an effect on our civilization. Students will read *The Origin of Species*, excerpts from *Voyage of the Beagle*, and have lectures on Darwin's contributions and modern evolutionary theory before and during the trip. Students will keep a journal during the trip of their biological observations. They will write a paper on their return, on a topic relevant to the Galapagos or evolution. This paper will be 7-10 pages in length and will include references from primary research conducted on the Galapagos flora and fauna. Students will also create a photojournal, consisting of 20 pictures and biological descriptions. There will also be an exam on the lecture material and observations made in the Galapagos and mainland Ecuador.

Professors:

Wade B. Worthen, Professor of Biology, Program Director

There will also be a second professor on the trip

PROPOSED ITINERARY for 2010:

May 9, 2010:	Dorms open
May 10 - 11:	Preparatory lectures on Charles Darwin and Evolution (4 hrs/day)
May 12:	Depart Greenville, SC - Arrive Quito, Ecuador
May 13:	Tour of Colonial Quito
May 14:	Tour of the Otavalo Region and visit to the textile markets
May 15:	Depart for the Galapagos
May 15-22:	Tour Galapagos aboard chartered vessel, <i>Galaxy</i>
May 23:	Return to U.S.
May 24:	Pick topics for papers
May 25:	work on papers and photo album
May 26:	work on paper and photo album
May 27:	work on papers and photo album
May 28:	papers due; course concludes

Credits:

This is a 2-credit May experience. It does not carry any GER credit. It may be applied towards Biology elective credit, in association with another 2-credit course.

Costs:

The cost for 2010 will be approximately \$6700/student. The cost included tuition for 2 credits, airfare and travel costs, lodging, entrance fees, taxes, virtually all food, and on-campus housing. The only additional expenses are personal items, souvenirs, post cards, etc.

Introduction:

A former student perhaps described this program best by saying, "*It's like walking through the pages of National Geographic.*" What a great summary!! The Galápagos are also a focal point. The islands are truly unique - everything you have seen on all those television specials is there and just waiting to behold! We will fly directly to Quito, Ecuador—one of the oldest cities in the Americas. We will see the cultural and architectural highlights of Colonial Quito and nearby areas. Once the northern capital of the Incan Empire, it was conquered by Pizarro in 1534. We will also visit Otavalo, a small village about 75 kilometers north of Quito that is an international mecca for woven woolens and leather goods. Our primary focus will be an exploration of the Galápagos Islands, which have been of major importance to evolutionary biologists since a visit by Charles Darwin in 1835. We will charter a first class vessel with native crew and an English-speaking naturalist guide. Normally, two hikes per day will be taken to sites on the islands. Over 10 islands will be explored. There will be snorkeling opportunities at virtually all stops. On all hikes and while snorkeling, the guides will explain the biology and ecology of the unique species found in these areas. The more complex topics and theories related to the special ecology of the Galápagos will be the subjects of evening lectures by the professors. We will also have a unique opportunity to view the giant tortoises which are found in these areas and for which the islands are named. There will be a half day visit to the Charles Darwin Research Center at Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island where students will also have an opportunity to visit the largest town in the Galápagos.

Web Site:

There is a web site available with additional information and application forms. Visit it at:

<http://facweb.furman.edu/~wworthen/studyaway/galapagos.htm>

Finally:

If you have that certain zest for life, aren't afraid to try new foods, like to challenge your mind and body, don't mind getting dirty, and -- most importantly -- have a curiosity about living things -- **WELCOME ABOARD!**