

# Ecuador

## Culture and Development

*Study current development trends in Ecuador, a remarkable country with great cultural and biological diversity.*

## Coursework

### Culture and Development Seminar

LACB 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines historical and current sociocultural and economic development trends and related movements in the Ecuadorian context with a particular emphasis on the multicultural composition of Ecuadorian society. Lecturers for the seminar are drawn from institutions such as Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Universidad Intercultural Amawtay Wasi, FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales), Universidad Politécnica Salesiana, FACES (Fundación de Acción Comunitaria), Fundación Equidad, and Coordinadora Política de Mujeres Ecuatorianas.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *History, Politics, and Economics*

History and archaeology of pre-Columbian cultures; the colonial period; the republican period including the liberal revolution; US policy in Ecuador; current Ecuadorian politics; land tenure and capitalism in Ecuador; agro-export model; import substitution industrialization model; neoliberal model; foreign debt and economic crisis; dollarization; migration and refugees; implications of the new constitution.

#### *Indigenous Nationalities and Afro-Ecuadorian Peoples*

Ethnic groups in Ecuador; history, worldview, and identity; cultural values and beliefs; music, art, and literature; political mobilization; access to health services; intercultural bilingual education; interculturality.

#### *Environmental Issues, Geography, and Ecology*

Ecosystems and life zones in Ecuador; agrarian monocultures; extractive industries; human ecology and resource management; nature as subject of rights; water as a strategic resource.

#### *Development Issues and Civil Society*

Economic models and coloniality of power; government; public health and education;

development institutions and their role; women in development; grassroots organizations; community-based initiatives; small-scale development; sustainability; women's movement; environmental movement; human rights; LGBTIQ activism; citizenships.

#### *Educational Excursions*

The program includes three major educational excursions: the cloud forest, the rainforest, and the central coastal region, including the city of Guayaquil. Students stay for several days in coastal villages and visit a settlement in the Amazon region.

### Intensive Language Study: Spanish

SPAN 2000–4000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive intermediate or advanced classes, with further language practice in homestays, lectures, and field visits.

### Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Ethnographic and anthropological perspectives; introduction to the Independent Study Project; cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; Workbook for Intercultural Dialogue; project selection and refinement; conceptual frameworks; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in approved locations in Ecuador.

**Sample topic areas:** indigenous crafts and agriculture; role of women in the economy



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Quito

**Language Study** Spanish

**Homestays** Los Chillos, 4 weeks;  
Quito, 3 weeks

**Other Accommodations** Hostels, guest houses, or small hotels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** Three recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

and society; export trade and the changing economic system; conservation efforts led by grassroots organizations; rural development; intercultural and public health; ecotourism; social services and educational case studies; Andean culture and worldview; ethnicity and identity; citizenship and interculturality.

**Please note:** This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit [www.sit.edu/ECR](http://www.sit.edu/ECR) for details.