

Dynamic Hub of the Americas: Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development on the Isthmus of Panama

Spring Semester - March 1-11, 2018

What a difference a century makes! This Penn Organizational Dynamics course, offered in Panama, will provide the opportunity to examine and assess the Panama Canal—a huge project with global impact undertaken in the early 1900s, completed in 1914, and recently expanded—alongside innovative, entrepreneurial, and paradigm-shifting sustainable development projects underway in early 21st Century Panama. Central America’s largest and fastest growing economy, Panama is developing rapidly. This course will explore avenues by which the nation is tackling sustainability challenges while balancing economic growth, cultural values, conservation of biodiversity, and exploitation of natural resources.

The early 1900s were about Imperialism and US political and financial dominance invoked to make something happen that was colossal in scale and macro in scope. Today’s Panama offers opportunities to study bright spots, positive deviance, and the emergence of new economic initiatives based on diverse worldviews—despite the micro scale of some of these projects, they too have the potential to change world order.

We will spend three days in Panama City, during which we will visit the Canal and important historical, cultural sites. We will travel across Panama, visiting a tropical dry forest reclamation project on the Azuero Peninsula, a coffee plantation in the mountains, a banana co-op, and a cacao/timber farm on the islands of Bocas del Toro. The course offers a broad perspective on Panama’s historical and contemporary approaches to sustainable development and innovation.

We will meet in one pre-trip session on Penn’s campus to prepare for the travel part of the course, and have one post trip session before the end of the semester to wrap up.

Students will submit a proposal for a course paper to the instructors and, once approved, complete that paper by the end of the semester.

DYNM 781 Course Costs

Depart Thursday, March 1st and return Sunday, March 11, 2018

CUs	Tuition	General Fee	Course Fee	Total
1	\$6,106*	\$372	**Private occupancy: \$1,812	\$8,290
1	\$6,106*	\$372	Shared Occupancy: \$1,414	\$7,892

Travel course fee includes:

- 10 Nights of accommodations
- All Breakfasts
- 4 Lunches
- 4 Dinners
- Entrance fees to program elements (e.g., museum entrance fees)
- Ground transportation to locations part of the academic program

Travel course fee does not include

- Flights between the US to Panama (estimated to be \$800 round trip)
- Flight between Bocas del Toro and Panama City (estimated to be \$125 one way)
- Airport transfers
- Meals not listed in the academic program
- [Vaccinations or medications](#)
- [Visa](#), if needed
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses

Students traveling on [Penn-affiliated trips](#) have [International SOS](#) (ISOS) membership, which includes 24/7 medical & security consultation, hospital referrals, travel medical insurance, and emergency evacuation assistance.

**Non-DYNM students will pay their program's tuition for a 1 CU course.*

***There are a limited number of single-occupancy rooms. Priority for these rooms will go first to travelers with a medical need for a private room; the remainder of the private rooms will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.*

Please email dynamics@sas.upenn.edu with questions regarding this course.