

# Educator Academy in the Amazon

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR ACADEMIC COURSE CREDIT

The following course requirements must be met to receive 2 semester hours of graduate credit from Widener University, Chester, PA. This Amazon Ecology course is listed under the School of Education, with the faculty supervision of Dr. Stephen Madigosky and assistance of Christa Dillabaugh, Amazon Rainforest Workshops. Letter grading (A, B, C, etc.) is used for this course. The course provides hands-on rainforest experiences and offers a structured introduction to tropical systems. The three components to the course include the pre-trip reading and academic preparation, the onsite field study in Peru, and post-trip reflection and application. Students can expect to be engaged in over 45 hours of onsite field study, at least 15 hours of pre-trip reading, and 30 hours of reflection and application development.

### REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: **Due April 1, 2019.**

1. Complete the Academic Credit Contract form (attached).
2. Complete the Widener University Registration Form (attached).
3. Enclose \$250 course fee **payable by check to "EcoTeach"**.
4. Send all forms with check or money order to Amazon Workshops/EcoTeach, c/o Christa Dillabaugh, PO Box 604, Poulsbo, WA 98370

**TRANSCRIPTS:** Grades and transcripts will be available after October 2017. Official transcripts are sent at no charge for the first copy (after which \$5.00 per copy) and must be requested in writing from: the Registrar's Office, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013 or FAX 610-499-4576. You must include your full name and signature, social security number, course name and number, date of the workshop, address to which the transcript should be sent, and \$5.00 fee (fee required after the first copy that you request). For questions about transcripts, contact the Registrar's Office at Widener University at 610-499-4146.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will gain knowledge and skills in developing an understanding of:

- rainforest ecology/canopy ascent;
- tropical rainforest environmental issues;
- biodiversity, conservation, and community-based resource management;
- rainforest research methods/field research skills;
- identifying an original research question, collecting data, and summarizing findings;
- ecological relationships between tropical and temperate forests;
- Amazonian riparian community life, education, socialization;
- involvement in community service to assist indigenous populations;
- application of rainforest concepts to education.

### AMAZON COURSE TEXTS:

(Required) Amazon Rainforest Workshops – Educator Academy Pre-Departure Readings

A collection writings, articles, and web-based resources specifically keyed to the topics of the Amazon workshop experience whose contents are posted online at <http://www.totheamazon.com/group/2017-academy-classroom>

(Recommended) Tropical Nature - by Adrian Forsyth & Ken Miyata. A 250-page paperback book providing a fascinating introduction to the dynamics of the rainforest ecosystem. (not included in workshop fee)

(Recommended) A Neotropical Companion – by John Kricher. An readable introduction to the American tropics. It is the most comprehensive one-volume guide to the Neotropics available today. (not included in workshop fee)

**COURSE COMPLETION:** Submit the **pre-departure work by email** before the Educator Academy to: [christa@amazonworkshops.com](mailto:christa@amazonworkshops.com). Pre-departure deadlines TBD by Dr. Madigosky and will be shared upon registration.

Final course assignments must be submitted by **August 15, 2019** in order to receive credit. (*Requests for extensions considered on case-by-case basis and must be submitted in writing no later than August 1, 2019*)

Send your required course documents including journal copies (a representative 10-page sample), final course papers/and poster via email to [christa@amazonworkshops.com](mailto:christa@amazonworkshops.com) or mail to: Amazon Workshops/EcoTeach, c/o Christa Dillabaugh, PO Box 604, Poulsbo, WA 98370. The required workshop evaluation form will be distributed at the end of the workshop via an on-line survey.

Note: The final poster project to receive an "A" grade is intended to be useful to you and become a significant piece of your professional portfolio. Please request approval if you wish to submit work that varies substantially from the stated requirements.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Call or email Christa Dillabaugh, Education Director, Amazon Rainforest Workshops/EcoTeach  
[christa@amazonworkshops.com](mailto:christa@amazonworkshops.com) / 800-431-2624

# Educator Academy in the Amazon

## ACADEMIC CREDIT CONTRACT

**COURSE #: SCED 590 A**

**COURSE NAME: Peruvian Amazon Ecology**

Student grading for this course is contractual. I understand that I can submit materials for A, B, or C grades and that in order to receive a grade of "A," I must complete requirements for all categories (A, B, & C). Non-satisfactory completion of the requirements or late submission will result in a one grade lower or less. All students will be required to do the following four basic criteria: (1) actively participate in the scheduled pre-departure orientation sessions and on-line discussions. (2) read and comment on the recommended Amazon texts and selected resources in a journal and in on-line discussions; (3) actively participate in all Amazon field sessions and workshops while in Peru; (4) join a brief academic credit group meeting during the field experience; (5) develop a poster that outlines the work/research that you conducted while in Peru and; (6) complete the Amazon Rainforest Workshop evaluation form.

For a "C" grade, additionally:

- I will maintain a field journal and submit a copy of 8-10 representative pages, with daily entries relating to concepts, ideas, and observations including visuals (sketches, photos, or video).
- I will write and submit a 10 - page, double spaced essay of ideas conceived or concepts reviewed throughout the duration of the workshop.

For a "B" grade, I will submit all of the above and in addition:

- Prior to departure, I will submit a pre-workshop summary, identifying five areas of special interest (such a biodiversity, cultural diversity, sustainable economic use of rainforest, ecotourism, adaptations, extinction, destruction, advocacy group success, or political intervention) and providing a list of references used for identifying these issues, including books, web-based resources, or journals.
- Prior to the workshop, I will identify five educational objectives that I expect to be fulfilled as a result of this course and make journal comments as to the realization of these expectations at the end of the workshop. Dr. Madigosky will provide samples upon registration.
- Prior to departure, I will participate in a mandatory Skype meeting with Dr. Madigosky to review journal requirements and educational objectives (Date/Time TBD).

For an "A" grade, I will submit all of the above and in addition:

- (Instead of a 10-page paper required for a C grade) Using my five educational objectives, workshop field experiences and assistance onsite during the workshop, I will identify a research problem, develop a hypothesis, design an experiment, collect data, analyze data, and report my findings by creating a professional poster (to be completed after return from the Amazon). Your completed poster will serve as a model for your students and colleagues and may also be submitted to NSTA, NABT, or other organizations for acceptance in a conference poster session. Sample posters will be shared by Dr. Madigosky upon registration. Your poster will report your finding using proper scientific format e.g. (Abstract, Introduction, Methods & Materials, Results, Discussion and Conclusion with Primary Source References). This will serve as the capstone project and the primary basis upon which you will be graded.
- Prior to departure, I will participate in a second mandatory Skype meeting with Dr. Madigosky to review my research problem, poster samples, and poster requirements (Date/Time TBD).

**I am enrolling in the following Widener University course offered 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Session in July, 2017:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contract Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**All assignments must be received by August 15, 2019 in order to receive credit.**

**To enroll, submit this contract, the Widener registration form, and payment made out to ECOTEACH to:**

Amazon Workshops/EcoTeach, c/o Christa Dillabaugh, PO Box 604, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Questions? Call 800-431-2624 / email [christa@amazonworkshops.com](mailto:christa@amazonworkshops.com)



## Education Graduate Programs Course Selection Form • Summer 2019

All new students should use this form to register. Current students should register online. When completing this form, please print clearly using a pen. Do not use pencil.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security # or Student #                      Birth Date                      F                      M

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Middle Initial

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address                      City                      State                      Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number                      Business Phone Number                      Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

### New Student Status (Please check one):

- First time at Widener
- Have attended Widener and not earned a degree

Colleges and universities are asked by many state and federal agencies to describe the racial/ethnic backgrounds of our students. In order to respond to these requests, we ask you to answer the following two questions:

1.) Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic/Latino?

- Yes     No

2.) In addition, select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African America
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

Citizen of \_\_\_\_\_

### Course Selection Data

Semester Code*	Course Abbr.	Course #	Section	Course Title	Days & Times	Credits
S	SCED	590		Peruvian Amazon Ecology		2
TOTAL CREDITS						2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor's Signature