



UVM students get wet at the Rosales family farm in Tacuba (2007 course)



UVM student going down the Apaneca shade coffee canopy tour (optional, 2007 course)



UVM students relax at Los Cobanos beach at the end of the journey (2007 course)

Coffee Ecologies & Livelihoods at UVM, El Salvador & Beyond!

A 6-credit, integrated classroom & field-based learning experience

**December 28, 2008 to January 8, 2009
(12 Full days, including travel)**

Course Overview - The sequence starts with the PSS 095 Coffee Ecologies and Livelihoods (3 credits), offered in the UVM campus. Here we do an in-depth overview of coffee production and consumption, from ‘bean to cup’, and with emphasis on the social and environment dimensions related to coffee roasting and consumption. We then transport ourselves to the coffee landscape of Tacuba, El Salvador, and learn how coffee is produced by different types of growers, help the Association of Organic Coffee Producers of Western El Salvador (ACOES) harvest their red, ripe beans, and engage in field agroecological and social research related to conservation and rural livelihoods. This sequence is designed to expose students to the complexity of global coffee networks, the actors that play a role in them, and the challenges and opportunities facing more ecologically sound and socially just coffee production and consumption.

Courses Sequence

1. PSS/ENVS 095 Coffee Ecologies & Livelihoods, Fall Semester (3 credits, on campus)
2. PSS/ENVS 295: Café (en) Tacuba: Ecologies and Livelihoods in a Coffee Landscape of El Salvador, Winter Break (3 credits, Study Abroad in El Salvador for 12 days)

Course Structure and Expectations - The on campus course provide students with a variety of lectures, invited speakers, fieldtrips and hands-on projects. We do a broad overview of the journey of the coffee bean from production to your morning coffee cup. In El Salvador, students will collaborate with the Community Agroecology Network (CAN), and its partner organizations, the Association of Organic Coffee Producers of Western El Salvador (ACOES), and Advising & Interdisciplinary research for Development and Conservation (ASINDEC). The CAN network is committed to sustaining rural livelihoods and environments by integrating Participatory Action Research, Action-education and Trade innovations.



Assistant Professor Ernesto Méndez (middle),
with coffee farmers in Tacuba.

Mark your calendars for the
INFO-SESSION -
Thursday, April 24 - 4:00 pm
Location- Davis Center,
Chittenden Room

Jeanne Fossani Memorial Scholarships

This scholarship fund honors the memory of Jeanne Fossani, a devoted teacher, environmental activist and bird and coffee enthusiast. Five scholarships of \$1500 are available for Vermont students with academic need to help cover study abroad fees.

Students will learn field agroecological methods and practices, and work side-by-side with local small-scale coffee farmers. A portion of your fee goes to ACOES, ASINDEC and CAN, and directly supports conservation and local development efforts in Tacuba. Participants will travel to beautiful tropical beaches, rain forests, and a nearby national park. For more information about CAN, visit: www.communityagroecology.net

About the Instructor UVM Assistant Professor Ernesto Méndez' research focuses on developing and applying interdisciplinary approaches that analyze interactions between agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation in tropical and temperate landscapes. He also seeks to turn his research into action through the application of a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach in partnership with non-profit organizations and farmer cooperatives. He is a native of El Salvador, and your participation in this course supports his life's work with coffee farmers in the western part of the country. For more information on his research and teaching visit his website: www.uvm.edu/~emendez .

Course Fees: In addition to tuition fees, students going on the El Salvador course will have to cover approximately \$2,300 for course fees & airfare.

Registration - Pre-register now at:
<http://learn.uvm.edu/>

Enrollment is limited to 15 students.

Prerequisite - UVM course can be taken on its own, but PSS/ENVS 095 is a prerequisite for the study abroad portion of the sequence.

For more information -

Contact lead professor Ernesto Mendez at:
Ernesto.Mendez@uvm.edu or phone 656-2539.

Also visit:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~emendez/?Page=Teaching.html>
To speak with a Continuing Education Advisor, email learn@uvm.edu, or call 800.639.3210 or 802.656.2085.