

Peralta Community College District
Merritt College



Belize - Study Abroad itinerary
Critical Thinking: English 5

A study of African Belizeans and Indigenous peoples struggle, particularly the Garifuna nation, within the context of resistance and resilience; toward promoting leadership or creating capabilities.

Friday, May 28th: from Oakland to **Dangriga City, Belize**

- Fly to Belize City, Belize (BZE airport code)
- Take the shuttle bus and check in @ Pelican Beach & Pal's Guest Hotel
- 7:00pm *Welcome Dinner* at the hotel
- Evening Lecture: "Belize City Politics and Current Issues facing the Country"
Mr. Glen Tillett, formerly of St. Johns College, Belize City, Belize.
- 8:00 – 9:00 pm Cultural Retrieval, and Garifuna dance steps
by Matthew Martinez - Ugundani Garifuna Dance Troupe - presentation

Saturday, May 30th: Dangriga City

- 8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast, Depart from hotel for days activities
- 9:30 – 10:30 am, Visit, lecture from *Sabal Cassava Family Farm*; learn about cultural food and roots, process cassava to **bread**
- 10:45 – 11:45 am, Museum Tour, *pictorial history of Garifuna people*
by Ms. Ema Lewis - Curator for Guilisi Garifuna Museum, Dangriga City.
- 11:45 – 12:45 noon **Lecture** "Garifuna History, Culture, and Spirituality"
by Canon Jerris Valentine, indigenous National Garifuna Council member
- 1:00 – 3:00 pm **Lunch, Tour, cultural Exhibition** at *Pen Cayetano's Art Gallery, Dangriga*
by Pen Rudolph Cayetano - nationally acclaimed painter and composer musician
by Mrs. Ingrid Cayetano – nationally acclaimed artist

Lecturers: *Pen and Shaka* on paintings
Drumming kinetics with Pen and Josh Arana
Traditional *Garifuna* lunch included

- 3:00 pm Relax in Dangriga, explore beaches

Sunday, May 31st, Check - in at Coconut Row Hotel, Hopkins
Free Day

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Dinner** at Coconut Row Hotel, Hopkins

Monday, June 1st,

- 8:00 am **Breakfast**, Coconut Row Hotel, Hopkins Village
- Welcome to Hopkins Village – Indigenous home of Garifuna people by Mick Castillo – President National Garifuna Council Branch
- 9:30 – 10:30 am **Lecture** “Politics of Indigenous People of Belize” by Ms. Adele Ramos – *Belizean Journalist and Garifuna Leader*
- 10:30 – 11:30 **Lecture** “A briefing on the State of **Conservation** and **Eco-Tourism**” by Ms. Arreini Palacio Morgan, *Southern Environmental Association (SEA), Belize*

11:30 – 12:30 noon

LUNCH Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative, Hopkins

- 12:30 – 1:30 pm **Lecture** “Belizean Women’s Struggle” – through the lens of Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative – *oral history* of first Belizean women’s collective by Ms. Cynthia Ellis – *Garifuna woman activist, and Duke of Edingburgh scholar,*
- **Free afternoon** on the beach, explore Hopkins, or Dangriga
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Dinner** at Coconut Row Hotel, Hopkins

Tuesday, June 2nd: Hopkins (Lectures at Sandy Beach Women’s Cooperative)

- 8:00 am Breakfast, **Coconut Row Hotel, Hopkins Village**
- 9:30 – 10:30 am “An Idea of Revolutionary Medicine or Health Policy” by Dr. Luther Harry Castillo, *Honduran Doctor of El Primer Hospital Popular de Garifuna* or review of Luther’s documentary
- 10:30 – 11:30 am “How Does the Future for Young People in Belize Look Like?” by Bro. Abdul Marin, *facilitator for youth discussant*
- 11:30 – 12:30 noon “Multi-culturalism in Belize” by Prof. Ifasina Efunyemi – *Social Studies Lecturer, at Stann Creek Ecumenical College* by Ms. Michelle Irving – *Social Welfare Officer, Stann Creek District*

LUNCH and/or Tour Village life, Southern Stann Creek District Villages, Belize

- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **Dinner at Coconut Row Hotel, Hopkins**

Wednesday, June 3rd

- 9:00am **Breakfast** at Coconut Row
- 10:00am Depart by boat to **Tobacco Caye**

L U N C H

- 1:30 – 2:30 pm Lecture at Tobacco Caye
“Environmentally friendly Snorkeling/Scuba lessons on coral reef”
by TBD Environmental educator
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm **Dinner** at Tobacco Caye

Thursday, June 4th: Tobacco

- 8:00 – 9:00 am **Breakfast** at Tobacco Caye
FREE MORNING – relax, snorkel on Tobacco Caye
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch** at Tobacco Caye

Friday, June 5th, Leave for Maya Mountains, Cayo

- 8:00 – 9:00 am **Breakfast** at Tobacco Caye
- **Lunch** at Hopkins or Dangriga (Place TBD)
- Travel via Belmopan, Capital of Belize, Cayo District
- 10:00 – 12:00 noon

L U N C H and “**Tour/Lecture Xunatunich** Mayan Temple”, Cayo District, Belize

- Hotel Check – in
- FREE AFTERNOON – possible meeting with Indigenous Mayan youth population
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm **Dinner** at San Ignacio Hotel George Hotel, Cayo

Saturday, June 6th, Leave for Orange Walk, then Radisson **Fort George Hotel, Belize City**

- 7:00 – 9:00 am Breakfast at San Ignacio Hotel, Cayo
- 10:00am **Tour** ecological river tour and day trip to the *Lamanai Mayan Temple (be sure to wear good walking shoes, pack mosquito repellent, water and camera) a bottle of Avon’s Skin-So-Soft does work*
- Walking tour of the temple grounds with lunch provided
- 2:00pm Leave Orange Walk to Belize City, Belize
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm Lecture on “African Presence in Belizean music”
by Ms. Gina Scott – An interactive musical session
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm Lecture on “Afro- Belizeans: past and present history”
by Prof Cesar Ross, University of Belize.
- Dinner – Bird’s Isle (traditional Creole meal)

WRAP UP at University of the West Indies, School of Continuing Studies, Belize

Sunday, June 7th, in Belize City

FREE DAY in Belize City

- 6:00 pm **Farewell Dinner at Place to be (TBD)**

Monday Depart for Oakland

Return to Oakland from Belize City

- *Everyone is to be at BZE airport by*
- *Flights from Bze arrive @ Oak late pm*



About Belize:

Belize is located in Central America, bordering Guatemala to the west, Mexico to the north, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. Belize is a small country with a population of over only 350,000+ people. It has a multi-cultural society with a fascinating history that resulted in a population of African descendants called “Creoles” who are descendants of the enslaved, Garifuna who are African/Arawak people, thriving Mayan communities, Amish who came to Belize to live without harassment, an increasing migrant population from Guatemala and El Salvador, Chinese Belizean immigrants, and Europeans mostly descendants of the former English crown who colonized Belize in the 1700s. Belize became an independent nation in 1981.

Belize is also popular amongst adventure travelers who snorkel/scuba dive because of the barrier reef off shore, which is the 2nd largest in the world. It is also known for its beautiful cayes, protected rain forests, the Mayan Mountain range, waterfalls, caves and more.

Tour Organizer:
Egbert R Higinio, aka Shaka,

Egbert “Shaka” Higinio was born to indigenous Garifuna parents in Dangriga Town, which locals fondly call “cultural capital” of Belize, Central America. Very early in life he lived with his parents and three siblings in Guatemala City. Then at seven the family of seven returned home to Belize where he attended Catholic elementary and high schools. He went to Belize City to Belize Technical College Sixth Form and graduated with an AA in Bio-chemistry. In his teenage years he got involved in Garifuna liberation movements with an interest in social justice issues that affected his local indigenous Garifuna people. On a national scale he helped create-The Belize National Youth Council (BNYC) and Belize Union of Students and Youth (BUSY); both defunct. Later he joined the teachers’ union and led the building of twenty homes in Belize City. He also became president of the National Trade Union Congress of Belize in the ‘90s. As an executive of Society for Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR), Shaka facilitated social justice town hall debates and meetings, and help to pioneer the founding of SUNRISE, a mobile recording ‘studio’ for local musicians to record and sell music. A Garifuna community radio station in Dangriga Town, named Hamalali, is also an early Egbert initiative.

As a career teacher Mr. Higinio has taught at the high school levels in Belize, Oakland, Tracy and San Jose cities. His teaching courses include English composition, literature, logic, critical thinking and philosophy. He has taught at Merritt College, Oakland; San Jose Evergreen Valley College, San Jose; Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles; and San Jose State University, San Jose. He enjoys applying critical theory to readings in literature; including concepts related to race, social justice, immigration, poverty and liberation theology. He is passionate about student learning the fundamentals of academic research, so that they recognize the importance of intellectual productivity and students’ contribution to the academic community as a whole. He appreciates attending conferences of the highest caliber so as to be engaged in ‘grounding’ and knowledge production, especially of matters related to Caribbean and Africana philosophy via ‘technologies’ for liberation using tools such as in phenomenology, hermeneutics, deconstruction and Black history.

His publications include “The Caribbean: Mimicry, Imitation or Mimesis through the eyes of Derek Walcott,” Egbert R. Higinio - published by UWI Barbados; “Eco-tourism Gone Awry” Ian Mont and Egbert R Higinio - published by NACLA; “Afro-Belizeans of Los Angeles” Egbert Higinio – published for Harvard Africana Studies Department, Oxford University Press. He earned his BA in English Literature from University of Belize, continued studies in Comparative Lit at San Jose State University, California and received the MA degree in philosophy. He is currently on a tour with his study-abroad English 5:Critical Thinking class of 17 students from Merritt College, Oakland.

