The two courses described below are presently the primary components of an annual ethnographic field school that has been established in Jamaica by Tony Whitehead, Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the Cultural Systems Analysis Group at the University of Maryland. These courses are carried out during simultaneous dates (July 12 through August 11) on the campus of the University of the West Indies and the cities of Kingston (3 ½ weeks) and Ochos Rios (the final 3 days). Students can register for only one of these courses, not both.

1. ANTH 498W/698W: Ethnographic Fieldwork: “National Celebration and Identity” (6 Credits). This four-week intensive short course is organized around Festival celebrations in Kingston, Jamaica in July, and celebrations associated with Emancipation Day (August 1) through Independence Day (August 6). These celebrations will be studied by students as they are introduced to, or have the opportunity to enhance their skills in such ethnographic methods as secondary data analysis, observation and participant observation, various forms of interviewing, and the analyses of socio-cultural themes. In addition to the study of these celebratory events, students will learn ethnographic methods and epistemologies through didactic classroom sessions, and ethnographic field trips that will provide them with opportunities to observe and take interviews in such settings as Kingston neighborhoods, the largest open market in the country, socio-culturally significant museums, including those associated with such national heroes as Bob Marley and Marcus Garvey, and the social interactions as may be found on Jamaican beaches, in nightclubs, and in areas frequented by tourists. While students registered for ANTH 498W/698W will not be required to volunteer to work with a Jamaican Non-Government Organizations (NGO) as will be the students registered for ANTH498Z/ANTH689V, described below, students registered for 498W/698W will be given the option to volunteer for such work so as to enhance their ethnographic opportunities. Students registered for ANTH 498W (undergraduates) will be required to write a final paper based on the results of their ethnographic findings, students registered for ANTH689W (graduate) course will be required to develop a proposal for further research based on their ethnographic findings. Undergraduate students then may use this course to develop papers as honors theses, as examples of writing in their applications to graduate school, etc, while graduate students ANTH698W provides an excellent opportunity for developing a research plan for carrying out further research for a thesis or dissertation. Those students who do option for volunteer work with an NGO will produce a final paper that focuses on issues of Jamaican identity, rather than issues associated with the work of the NGO. Final papers or proposals are due one week following the end of the course.
2. ANTH498Z/ANTH689V: Internship/Ethnographic Assessment: "Introduction to Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues in Jamaica" (6 credits). This four week intensive short course is carried out during the same period. Students registered for ANTH498Z/ANTH689V will be required to volunteer either to work: (1) with a NGO while in Kingston, focusing on youth sexual and reproductive health issues (early introduction to sex and pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS, etc); or if they prefer, (2) with the professor as an intern to his research unit, the Cultural Systems Analysis Group (CuSAG) in the development of the UMCP-UWI collaborative on youth sexual and reproductive health issues. Students registered for ANTH498Z/ANTH689V will have the option to attend the same cultural events as the students registered for ANTH498W/ANTH698W that occur in the evenings and during weekends, but will not be required to do so. Students registered for ANTH498W/ANTH698W may want to take part in these activities simply for entertainment purposes, or as additional opportunities to learn more about Jamaican culture and society, or to the extent that they provide socio-cultural frameworks for better understanding factors related to youth sexual and reproductive health issues. Students registered for ANTH498Z/ANTH689V will be asked to go beyond the traditional tasks of an intern by learning and applying ethnographic techniques to better understand: (1) the broader social and cultural contexts that contribute to sexual and reproductive health issues among youth; and (2) how these issues are being addressed by the organizations in which they are interning, as well as by other organizations working on these issues. While students registered for ANTH498Z (undergraduates) will be required to write a final paper based on the results of their ethnographic findings, students registered for ANTH689V (graduate) course will be required to develop a proposal for further research based on their ethnographic findings. This course provides excellent opportunities for students interested in the way that social issues are addressed in another culture, the impact of social programs at different social levels, as well as a vehicle for gaining access to Jamaicans and social settings at different levels of Jamaican society through the organizations to which they are assigned as interns. This course will also be a good experience for those students who may be interested in international health and other social issues. Undergraduate students have used this course to develop papers that they then use as honors thesis, or as examples of writing in their applications to graduate school. For graduate students this course provides an excellent opportunity for developing a research plan for carrying out further research for theses or dissertations. Final papers or papers or proposals are due one week following the end of the course.

For Registration, Scholarship, and Other Information:
http://www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/