

Mexico Service Learning: Culture, Language, and Schooling

Sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development



Spring Break Study Abroad Program

March 9-19, 2017

Program Director

Dr. Sue Kasun: skasun@gsu.edu



Program Description

This study abroad introduces students to many of the most important cultural, economic, and social issues surrounding language and diversity as they relate to Latino populations, now the largest ethnic group in the U.S. We explore the “City of Eternal Spring,” Cuernavaca, Mexico, as our main location, with site visits in nearby Mexico City and the “Magical Town” of Tepoztlan. Students will learn about the relationship between schools and society in terms of diversity and language, studying Spanish daily in a way that weaves local cultural issues into language study. We partner with a social-justice oriented language institute. We also have a field-experience in a local school which does highly transformative work with marginalized youth based on an indigenous knowledge model. This program will help participants improve understandings for how to work with Latina/os, marginalized youth, and to think more broadly about schooling. All skills learned will help make participants more marketable in Atlanta and Georgia as we continue to experience an influx of Latino—especially Mexican—populations.

Application Information

Students interested in applying should find this program’s listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an online application.

Transient Students: please see the Transients Student section under the Explore & Apply tab.

International students at Georgia State who hold F-1 visas must contact the Office of International Students and Scholar Services at (404) 413-2070 to discuss possible implications of study abroad for their immigration status.

Eligibility

In order to participate in any study abroad program students must be in Good Academic Standing which is defined at Georgia State University as a cumulative 2.0 GPA for Undergraduate students and 3.0 GPA for Graduate students. Please note that study abroad program size is limited and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the Program Director. Non-GSU students must follow their institution’s regulations concerning transfer credits.

Accommodations

Participants will stay in a comfortable, double-occupancy bedroom with a caring Mexican family near the school in Cuernavaca. The host family receives regular training regarding the school’s approach to learning and caring for guests and helps students both learn about Mexico and practice their Spanish.

Application Deadline: October 31, 2016

TENTATIVE PROGRAM ITINERARY

Atlanta, GA



The program will begin with three mandatory pre-departure meetings where the course and program will be discussed at length.

Cuernavaca, Mexico



Students visit a service-learning school site based in indigenous knowledge and immediately begin Spanish classes by proficiency level. Students learn from various guest speakers and with site visits to museums covering thousands of years of Mexican history, and visits to contemporary artisan markets. Students may also explore Mexico's diverse food scene and additional museums and markets.

Mexico City, Mexico



Students explore this world-class city, including the Frida Kahlo Museum, a political action museum, historic Coyoacán, as well as downtown Mexico City.

Tepoztlan, Mexico



Students hike to an indigenous ceremonial pyramid (optional) in this nationally designated "Magical Town," known for its lovely rustic architecture and indigenous sense of self-preservation. The trip includes a visit a local market, a regional historic convent and history museum, and they make final preparations to return home.



Courses and Credits

Participants who successfully complete the programs EDUC 3333 or EDUC 7777 OR EDCI 4700 OR 7670/7680 will receive 3 semester hours of course credit at Georgia State University. Undergraduate students should register for either EDUC 3333 or EDCI 4700; graduate students should register for either EDUC 7777 or EDCI 7670/7680.

Program Cost

The program cost is tentatively set at **\$1200 + airfare in addition to regular Georgia State University tuition and fees**. Program cost may vary at any time according to currency fluctuations and changing travel arrangements. Non-resident/out-of-state students will pay in-state tuition plus a \$250 fee in addition to the program cost. For more information on what the program cost does and does not include, please visit:

<http://www.studyabroad.gsu.edu/?go=MEXSL>

SPRING BREAK EARLY DECISION DISCOUNT

Please note that neither the IEF nor the GES scholarships are applicable to Faculty-Led Spring Break Programs. There is, however, a **\$1000 early decision discount** for the first 9 Georgia State students who 1) apply, complete and submit their program application by October 31, 2016 2) pay their program deposit of \$200 by October 31, 2016 and 3) are accepted into their program. (Please see the payment schedule below for more details.)

If an applicant misses the early decision discount (application submissions are time-stamped), they will absolutely be refunded their deposit within 7 business days should they choose not to participate at the full program price. Please note: transient students are not eligible for this discount.

Contact Information

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Visit <http://www.studyabroad.gsu.edu/?go=MEXSL> for more information.