

Oaxaca, Mexico

Mid-tier Teaching Experience and Cultural Immersion

Course Credit

Students will earn EDU 361 (2 credits) and EDU 508M (1 credit). University Program IV-B credit (Global Cultures) will be requested but is not guaranteed.

Application Deadline

December 1, 2008

Applications after the deadline will be considered based on space available.

Program Dates

Tentatively June 1-22, 2009

Eligibility

Students must have been accepted into the teacher education program for either the spring or fall of 2007. Two years of high school Spanish or one year of college level Spanish language are preferable, but not required.



The Program

Students will provide direct services to children in Oaxaca under the supervision of CMU faculty members. They will teach either preschool, elementary, or middle school children in a bilingual K-8 school. Teaching will include both planning and providing educational experiences for the children.

In addition to field trips to cultural sites within the region, other field trips will be organized to allow students to see educational settings other than the bilingual school in which students are teaching – the university and public school in Oaxaca and a village school in the nearby area.

Working group meetings and daily seminars will be used to prepare teaching activities and to process students' learning experiences in the classroom. Students will also have ample free time to explore the vibrant cultural life of downtown Oaxaca City in the blocks surrounding the group's lodging – designated by UNESCO for preservation as a "World Heritage" site for cultural richness and history.

Program Cost

The cost of the program, including the Office of International Education fee, health insurance, room and field trips is \$1,600-\$1,700. Tuition for the appropriate number of credits will also be charged.

Additional costs: Airfare (approx. \$900), passport (\$110), meals, and personal spending money.



Course Activities

There will be three class meetings in the spring semester prior to departure which will be announced by the application deadline. These class meetings will lay the foundation of the program. The first is to meet with students and their families to provide information about the program. The second is to provide "get-acquainted" and team building activities for the students. The third is an all day work day to make final preparations for the trip – some Spanish language enhancement, guest speakers on needed skills with non-English speaking children, and preparation of materials.

In addition, students will have a number of articles to read before and during the trip, and there will be three seminars on site processing the articles in relation to their immersion in the culture of Oaxaca.

Program Goals

This program is designed to provide students with a cultural immersion experience at a teaching site working with children under the direction of CMU faculty and the professional staff of the sites.

The program is designed to:

1. Provide services that benefit the children of Oaxaca.
2. Provide CMU students the opportunity to design, develop, and implement developmentally appropriate activities for children.
3. Provide CMU students with a meaningful international growth experience.
4. Provide CMU students the opportunity to engage fully with the community and culture of Oaxaca.

Accommodations

Housing will be provided in a Oaxaca hotel. Rooms will be shared. Students will be responsible for providing most of their own meals.

Cultural Activities

Each year the program plans a variety of tours and activities to help explore the rich culture and heritage of the Oaxaca region. Tours vary from year to year. Students are also encouraged to make additional visits on their days off. Here are some of the local excursions available.

Oaxaca City: The city of Oaxaca de Juarez is vibrant with festivals and processions. Students can visit the local produce and craft markets, the church of Santo Domingo, the botanical garden, and a variety of museums.

One of the most special Oaxacan traditions is the "Guelaguetza." A "Guelaguetza" or folk dance festival features the traditional dances from the 16 regions of the state of Oaxaca. Each year, this has been the closing activity of the program.

Financial Aid

Financial aid received may be applied to the cost of the program. It may also possible to apply for additional aid based on the program's cost (including airfare). For additional information, contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, Warriner Hall 202, (989) 774-3674.

Scholarship Information

CMU students may apply for a Study Abroad Scholarship through the Office of International Education/Study Abroad. The application deadline is February 28.

Additional information about study abroad scholarship opportunities available through CMU and other organizations can be found on the Study Abroad website.



Field Trips

In order to experience the culture and history of the region, field trips outside of Oaxaca are planned for the weekends. The Oaxaca region is rich with pre-hispanic ruins built by a succession of indigenous people: Olmecs, Zapotecs, and Mixtecs. Possible trips include:

Monte Alban: Inhabited over a period of 1500 years by a succession of peoples--Olmecs, Zapotecs, and Mixtecs--the terraces, dams, canals, pyramids, and artificial mounds of Monte Alban were literally carved out of the mountain and are the symbols of a sacred topography.

Tule: At over 2,000 feet tall, the Tule Tree is one of the oldest living trees in the world. With a ten meter in diameter trunk and reaching 54 meters in circumference, it is a truly amazing site!

Teotitlan del Valle: In the village of Teotitlan del Valle, settled over 2,000 years ago, nearly every home is a small weaving factory where family members card, spin, and color wool, often using hand-gathered natural dyes, and weave a variety of "tapetes" or carpets on hand looms.

Tlacolula: The village of Tlacolula hosts a large market every Sunday which draws people from the entire Oaxaca Valley. This is not a tourist market, although there are many interesting things to purchase. Here you can buy everything from batteries to a wooden yoke for oxen, from hand-embroidered clothing to live goats.

"The confidence and empowerment I gained from my time spent in Oaxaca will help me to continue to learn, grow, and flourish into a much better person and teacher than I ever thought I could be"

- Sarah



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For more information

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