

XAVIER UNIVERSITY
2009 SUMMER PROGRAM IN MEXICO
CUERNAVACA

Dr. Diane Ceo-DiFrancesco, Coordinator



The summer studies programs in Cuernavaca, Mexico are ideal for university students, teachers and others interested in a concentrated academic program while experiencing first-hand the culture of Mexico through homestays and field trips. Students may choose either a three- or six-week program.

The Cemanahuac Educational Community offers both graduate and undergraduate courses in Spanish language as well as in Anthropology, History, Literature and Art in English. This center is also the site of several other university programs from the United States.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR AND EVENTS

May 23, 2009	Departure from Cincinnati Arrival in Mexico City. Bus trip to Cuernavaca Meet families and begin homestay
May 24	Orientation
May 25	Classes begin
May 30 or May 31	Field study trip
June 6 or 7	Field study trip
June 13	Three-week group departs for Cincinnati
June 13 or 14	Field study trip or free weekend
June 20 or 21	Field study trip or free weekend
June 27 or 28	Field study trip or free weekend
July 4	Six-week group departs for Cincinnati

CUERNAVACA

Cuernavaca, located 70 km. from Mexico City, is frequently called the City of Eternal Spring (la ciudad de la eterna primavera). It is a lovely colonial city where the trees should be in bloom while the group is there. Cuernavaca was conquered by Cortés prior to the conquest of Tenochtitlán in 1521 and is the capital of the state of Morelos.

The city's historic landmarks include the Cortés palace (from which he governed a huge portion of Mexico), the cathedral and the Jardín Borda. The city has about one million inhabitants. There is an array of cultural activities such as concerts, folkdances, and mariachis, along with a wide variety of restaurants. Outlying villages provide additional insight to the culture of the region.

Since Cuernavaca is located at an altitude of 5,200 feet above sea level, it combines mountain and subtropical weather. The average temperature in June is a pleasant 68 degrees, with warm, sunny mornings and frequent late afternoon thundershowers.

COURSES

Students will take language courses in the morning five days a week and are also expected to take a non-language Latin American Studies course (most of them are taught in English) in the afternoon three or four days a week.

Language Courses

All of the summer language courses are intensive (three hours and 45 minutes class daily, five days a week). An optional one-hour conversation class is held immediately afterwards four days a week. Classes are small with only two to six students. Progress is closely monitored and students will be placed in a different class every Monday according to their advancement and needs.

In all of the language classes, the primary emphasis is on oral language development, with substantial attention given to reading and writing skills. The teaching methods at Cemanahuac combine a variety of approaches. In teaching speaking and reading skills, emphasis is on learning grammatical structures directly through hearing and speaking rather than through reading rules and exercises. Reading and writing exercises are designed to reinforce material, which has already been introduced orally.

Beginning Level (3 wks.-3 cr., 6 wks.-6 cr.) Develops abilities in understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Offers a basic study of grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Intermediate Level (3 wks.-3 cr., 6 wks.-6 cr.) Intended to develop further Spanish language skills, both oral and written. **PREREQ:** Elementary Spanish or equivalent as determined by placement examination and consultation.

Advanced Levels (3 wks.-3 cr., 6 wks.-6 cr.) Expands facility in expressive conversation as well as accuracy in writing Spanish. Offers analysis of grammar and expansion of vocabulary through cultural and literary readings. Discussion of topics related to Hispanic contemporary trends, current events, everyday life and other themes of immediate concern to the student. **PREREQ:** Intermediate Spanish or equivalent as determined by placement examination and consultation.

Latin American Studies Courses Students are expected to enroll in one Latin American Studies course per week and to participate in the field study trips.

FIELD STUDY TRIPS

The field study trips are considered to be an integral part of the program. There will be trips to different points of interest in Cuernavaca during the week after class. Additionally, students in the three week program will take three field trips and students in the six week program will take four field trips. Students will be required to keep a portfolio with a summary of the trips, reactions to them, and photos. The coordinator and the student will decide if this is to be in Spanish or English. More advanced students will be expected to write in Spanish.

Field study trips: Walking tour of Cuernavaca plus three (for 3-week group) and four (for 6-week group) of the following trips:

- *Tepoztlán (market day or climb to the pyramid of Tepozteca; healer; Dominican monastery).
- *Teotihuacán (pyramid of the Sun, pyramid of the Moon) and Cuicuilco (site of the oldest existing pyramid in the Western Hemisphere).
- *Mexico City (Templo Mayor; Palacio de Bellas Artes, etc.)

*Mexico City (Museum of Anthropology and Chapultepec Park)

Xochicalco (archaeological site famous for astronomical convention)

Other trips are optional, as some students may want more free time on the weekends to rest or organize their own trips. Students may go on all of the field study trips or on other optional excursions announced at the school by paying an additional fee, ranging from \$35 to \$50/student (depending on the trip).

Field study trips provided are subject to change based on school's offerings and student interest.

CREDITS

Upon the successful completion of the requirements, the participant is granted graduate or undergraduate credit by Xavier University. Credit for specific courses is listed below.

Language Program: Students in the three-week language program will receive 3 credit hours and students in the six-week language program will receive 6 credit hours at elementary, intermediate or advanced level according to placement.

Latin American Studies Courses and Field Study Trips: Students on the three-week program may contract for 3 additional credit hours (based on the number of courses they take and the amount of work they do) and students on the six-week program will receive an additional 3 credit hours. (The three-week group will be doing more than half of the same work.) By previous agreement with the coordinator, the credit may be recorded as history, literature, art, etc., depending on the courses the student takes and the written work done. *Students going for two weeks will contract for 2 language credits and for 2 LAS credits.

PLACEMENT

When possible, written placement exams for Spanish classes will be given prior to departure for Mexico so that students are placed in proper levels of language classes. The date of the exam will be announced upon acceptance to the program. An oral evaluation will be done in Mexico before classes begin. Fees cover deposit for one textbook which may be turned back in for a more advanced one if the book is in good condition.

HOUSING

Living with a family is an important part of any study experience in Mexico. Cemanahuac maintains contact with families that house foreign students, where, besides receiving room and board, students may be accepted into the friendship and warmth of a second home. Every attempt is made to match students with the type of family they would feel most comfortable with. The homes are within walking distance of the school or on a bus route.

The specific rules and procedures for staying with a family will be explained to the student upon arrival. Students will be expected to coordinate their schedules with that of the family. Also, students should always remember that they are in someone's house and act with courtesy and common sense.

The main meal of the day is served between 2:00-3:00 P.M. Supper is a very light meal, often only coffee and rolls. Students are responsible for purchasing their own soft drinks and snacks.

GROUP TRAVEL

The cost of this is not included in the program fees. As of this writing, airfare is between \$555 and \$650 (plus baggage fees). An economical airport shuttle bus is available for the trip from Mexico City to Cuernavaca. Contact Dr. Ceo-DiFrancesco for information on how to take this bus.

PASSPORT

All participants must have a United States passport on arrival in Mexico and leaving Mexico. **Passport** (or photocopy) should be kept with student at all times in Mexico.

Students from countries other than the United States should check with their consulate to determine what travel documents are necessary.

INSURANCE

Students **must** provide their own health and accident insurance. It is important to consult with one's insurance agent to find out if the individual or family policy has sufficient coverage.

VACCINATION

Neither the U.S. nor Mexico requires vaccinations.

CLOTHING

Summer clothing should suffice for class attendance and most activities. Short shorts would be acceptable only in resort areas. For cooler weather bring a sweater or a jacket. It is a good idea to bring an umbrella and maybe a rain jacket for afternoon showers, as May through September is the rainy season. Good walking shoes are essential. More dressy clothes would be needed only occasionally. Be sure to bring a bathing suit. Bring a washcloth. The electrical current is the same, but a plug adapter might be needed--the wider prongs will not fit in the outlets there.

PERSONAL BUDGET

A \$30.00 per day budget should cover personal expenses, occasional entertainment and trips to nearby cities. Additional funds that you may need will depend on what you want to buy for yourself and for gifts at the different markets and stores in Cuernavaca and the places visited on the field study trips.

PROGRAM FEES

Include: tuition; homestay with three meals daily in Cuernavaca, field study trips listed on page 1 and within Cuernavaca. Program fees **do not cover airfare Cincinnati-Mexico City** nor transportation Mexico City-Cuernavaca nor personal expenses.

3 Week Program: \$1730.00

6 Week Program \$2925.00

Graduate 3 week Program \$2025.00

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

\$25 **Due with application (nonrefundable application fee)**

\$300 **Upon acceptance into Program**

Balance due **April 17, 2009**

Failure to pay all fees by April 17, 2009 will cancel student's participation in the program. Absolutely no exceptions apply to deadlines.

Make checks payable to **Xavier University**.

REFUND POLICY

Our refund policy will be as follows:

- a) Full refund (minus nonrefundable application fee) for cancellation before April 17.
- b) Refund of unused portion for cancellation between April 17 and departure date. Some payments will already have been made to the school in Mexico and for housing.

NOTE: Refunds are not granted after the departure date.

NOTE: Since the program is organized months before it takes place, minor adjustments are sometimes necessary in specific dates and courses offered (predicted on enrollment). In rare circumstances, particularly in the event of unusual fluctuations in the exchange rate, minor adjustments to the cost may be necessary.

FINANCIAL AID

Consult your university's Financial Aid Office.

BACKGROUND READING

Before leaving for Mexico, it would be well worth the effort to read one of these books:

Alan Riding, Distant Neighbors, New York, Knopf, 1984.

R.C. Padden. The Hummingbird and the Hawk. The Ohio State University Press, 1967.

Estela González and Carmen Blázquez, History of Mexico, Panorama.

You might want to purchase a travel guide to Mexico, such as Lonely Planet Mexico or the latest edition of Let's Go Mexico, to help plan personal excursions. Take a good Spanish-English dictionary and a verb reference manual.

APPLICATION

The application packet includes an Application form, two Personal Reference Forms, Student Participation Agreement, Authorization for Medical or Surgical Treatment Form, Confidential Health History Form and a "Summer Programs Abroad" checklist. **THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 3.** *There will be **no exceptions**.*

Send application materials to:
Dr. Diane Ceo-DiFrancesco
2009 Xavier University Summer Program in Mexico
909 Schott Hall
3800 Victory Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45207-5184

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. You can contact Dr. Diane Ceo-DiFrancesco by phone (513) 745-3423, by e-mail: ceo-difr@xavier.edu, or by visiting her office at 909 Schott Hall. You can also reach Ms. Margaret McDiarmid, Director of Study Abroad, at (513) 745-3406, by email at mcdiarmi@xavier.edu, or at 907 Schott Hall.

TRAVELING

You should not make any travel arrangements until you have written notification of your acceptance to the program. Detailed information will be provided upon acceptance to the program.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY IS AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PERSONS REGARDLESS OF AGE, SEX, RACE, RELIGION, HANDICAP, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

