

Cuernavaca, Mexico

SOCI 338T/538T: Cross-Cultural Alliance Building
Faculty: Becky Thompson, Sociology Department
Travel Dates: May 19 to June 7, 2008
Program Costs: \$2800 + tuition. Price includes airfare, food, lodging & excursions

This course provides knowledge of leading contemporary scholarship on cross-cultural alliances and border crossing, focusing on the United States and Mexico, combined with lived experience of such crossings. It will emphasize how power inequalities are negotiated in cross-cultural work. The course includes pre-departure classes to prepare students for the travel component. While in Mexico students will participate in twice-weekly lectures and discussion, daily language classes focusing on teaching Spanish in context, off-campus lectures, and several visits to a range of urban sites. Each student will be assigned a home stay placement made by a careful selection process conducted by CETLALIC staff.

List of Highlights:

- Knowledge of leading scholarship on cross-cultural alliance and border crossing combined with lived experience of such crossings.
- Exposure and familiarity with Cuernavaca, Mexico, which is considered an intellectual and artistic center for Mexico and named the “City of Eternal Spring.”
- Exposure to pedagogical method of language instruction practiced at CETLALIC, a progressive language school in Cuernavaca that focuses on teaching language in context. CETLALIC’s mission is based on understanding that “to teach language is to teach culture; they are inseparable and one cannot teach/learn one without the other. The ‘culture’ we speak about is not some idyllic concept; it is the present, concrete reality of a people whose heritage, contradictions, and problems are integral to understanding their language.”
- Development of skills of cross-cultural communication and understanding between the peoples of Mexico and those of other cultures.

This course is not designed to meet the Foreign Language requirement; however, after completing this short term program students may take the Spanish placement test at Simmons (or their home campus) which, due to their progress while studying in Mexico, may allow them to place beyond the introductory/intermediate classes. This course also fulfills the Simmons Mode of Inquiry 5 (Social and Historical Perspectives).

Participants should be prepared for extensive walking during tours, climbing stairs and eating Mexican foods prepared by host families.

Apply by January 28, 2008 in the Study Abroad Office, Room E110, Simmons College. Students from other COF schools must complete the COF cross-registration form also.

For application information: studyabroad@simmons.edu or 617.521.2128
For course information: Becky Thompson at becky.thompson@simmons.edu or 617.521.2592



Price and Itinerary are subject to change