



Study Abroad in Paradise: Cozumel, Mexico

Pre-session, May 19–June 6, 2008

JOUR 498/898 International Media: Mexico

This 3-credit hour course will explore news and advertising in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. We'll spend a few days in preparation on campus, then travel to the state of Quintana Roo for about 2 weeks. Our goal is to look at how mass media is used in a developing country--especially in an environment with a great deal of cross-cultural communication. The majority of time will be spent on the beautiful island of Cozumel. We'll explore mass media use in a somewhat isolated community with limited technology, talk to residents and business operators in the community and tour some media organizations. There will be reading as well as writing assignments. But don't worry--you'll also have some time to explore the white sand beaches and crystal clear blue sea.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Don't wait until the start of summer school registration. Fill out an application through International Affairs now so they can reserve your spot. This trip is limited to 10 students and the application deadline is March 14. Go to the IA Web site and fill out the Form A application. http://www.unl.edu/iaffairs/study_abroad/applications.shtml

Q: Is this only for news ed. or advertising majors?

A: No. While this course counts as a Journalism elective for any news, advertising or broadcasting student, any undergraduate or graduate student is eligible to take the course. Non-journalism majors may find this to be an interesting elective. Students from other universities are also welcome to consider this course for transfer credit.

Q: What's the cost?

A: The current estimate is about \$1750. The price is an estimate and may increase or decrease slightly, depending on airfares. So tell your friends and get them to sign up ASAP so we can go after those airfare sales.

Q: What will the price include?

A: The cost will include airfare, transfers, hotel, travel insurance and a couple of group meals. It will also include transportation and translators in Mexico, if needed to complete the course work (Ex: transportation and translator to tour a radio station). The price does not include tuition, passport, books, or other meals.

Q: Are there scholarships? How do I find out about financial aid or loans?

A: Explore this through the International Affairs Web site. There are different scholarships that may be appropriate for different students. Apply now rather than waiting for published deadlines. See: http://www.unl.edu/iaffairs/study_abroad/SASchindex.shtml

Q: Will I have to have a passport or is a birth certificate enough identification?

A: You now must have a valid passport to travel to Mexico. Apply for one ASAP if you don't already have one.

Q: Can a freshman or sophomore take this 400-level course?

A: Yes. The course number represents the fact that it's a special topics course. While the study abroad experience will be challenging, it will also be fun. Graduate students will have different assignments for the 800-level course.

Q: Can I take this course if I don't speak Spanish?

A: Yes. While it's a great opportunity to practice speaking Spanish, those who don't speak it will get along just fine. The communities we'll visit have many bilingual people. Translators will be available when it's essential to understand everything said by a class speaker or guide.

Q: Who is leading the trip?

A: Your course instructor and trip leader will be Phyllis Larsen, senior lecturer in the COJMC Advertising sequence. She has been traveling to Cozumel for more than 20 years. She led last year's study abroad students to Mexico and says they had a great time.

Q: Now what?

A: First, fill out Form A and submit to International Affairs. Also let Prof. Larsen know if you're interested. Then get your friends psyched to go, too. Make sure we have your email address and we'll let you know as additional info is available.

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