



Contemporary Yucatán

Language and Cultural Studies in the Yucatán

Contemporary Yucatán is specially designed for all IFSA-Butler students on the Language and Cultural Studies in the Yucatán program. It is taught in Spanish by Mexican professors. The class is awarded 3 U.S. semester credit hours and meets for 45 hours during the summer.

Introduction:

This course will analyze a series of topics related to contemporary Yucatán, allowing students to develop a broad perspective on the current state of the local political scenario and its social and cultural aspects. Topics include the Mayan indigenous population; forms of political organization; violence; migratory movements within the Mayan population as well as other migrant groups entering the Yucatán; tourism; eco-tourism; gastronomy; and the archaeology in the Yucatán. As a general reference point for each of these contemporary themes will be the history of Yucatán, especially that of the 19th and 20th centuries, and its relation to the Caribbean, with a special emphasis on Cuba. This will allow students to place themselves in the historical processes that have influenced the current image of the State of Yucatán.

General Objective:

To understand the current situation in the Yucatán with respect to each of the selected topics; to comprehend the sociocultural context of the State of Yucatán.

Methodology:

Students will participate in lectures and daily discussion. The professor will lecture on themes that will be discussed through practical examples of the current reality. Students will be asked to actively contribute their own ideas and perspective of the Yucatán. We will also watch some documentaries about the Yucatec Mayan population and we will have weekly outings to directly connect some of the topics covered in class.

Evaluation:

Class participation:	30%
Documentary analysis:	20%
Outings reaction papers:	20%
Essay:	20%
Attendance:	10%

The documentary reflection will be complemented with the Cuba field-excursion. Each student will have to write a critical review (two pages in length) for each activity. The final essay will be selected within the first five class sessions and will be eight pages long (double-spaced).

Content and Bibliography:

Class 1

History of Yucatán, 19th and 20th centuries

[The caste war; Henequen haciendas; multi-ethnic societal structure; important political figures]

Class 2

Yucatán and the Caribbean: Relationship with Cuba

[Cuba, José Martí, the concept of contemporary Caribbean, Yucatecan population in Cuba; Cuban population in the Yucatán]

Class 3

Outing for Culture Class (Migrants downtown)

Class 4

Literature in the Yucatecan context: 19th, 20th and 21st centuries

Class 5

Contemporary Mayan indigenous population

[Generalities about the Mayan indigenous population past and present]

Class 6

Contemporary Mayan indigenous population

Recommended reading:

Lizama Quijano, Jesús 2007 *Estar en el mundo. Procesos culturales, estrategias económicas y dinámicas identitarias entre los mayas yucatecos*. México, CIESAS/Porrúa (specifically the Conclusions section)

[Transformation within the Mayan population and its relationship with globalization]

Class 7

Contemporary Mayan indigenous population

Recommended reading:

Bracamonte y Sosa, Pedro 2007 *Una deuda histórica. Ensayo sobre las condiciones de pobreza secular entre los mayas de Yucatán*. México, CIESAS/Porrúa (specifically chapter 5)

[Poverty and marginalization of the contemporary Mayan indigenous population]

Class 8

Outing for Culture Class (Migrants downtown)

Class 9

Caribbean literature

Class 10

Political organization and electoral processes

Recommended reading:

Figueroa-Magaña, Jorge Enrique 2013 "Identidad regional y conducta electoral: el caso del PAN en Yucatán" en Limina R. *Estudios sociales y Humanísticos*, año II, vol. XI, número 1, México

[General review of Politics in Mexico and Yucatan. Political parties in the Yucatan and their alliances with the population]

Class 11

Political organization and electoral processes

[General review of current electoral processes, strategies of political campaigns and current situation in the Yucatecan context]

Class 12

Migration: gender and economics in the Yucatan

Recommended reading:

Weinstein Bever, Sandra 2002 "Migration and the transformation of gender roles and hierarchies in Yucatán" en *Urban Anthropology and studies of cultural systems and world economic development*, Vol. 31, No. 2

[International and regional migration in Yucatan. Transformations in gender roles]

Class 13

Outing for Culture Class (Migrants downtown)

Class 14

Caribbean Literature: Cuba

Class 15

Migratory movements: gender and economics in the Yucatan

Recommended reading:

Lewin Fischer, Pedro 2012 *Las que se quedan. Tendencias y testimonios de migración interna e internacional en Yucatán*, México, Gobierno Federal/Gobierno del Estado/IEGY (específicamente el capítulo de experiencia migratoria de las mujeres)

[Gender and migration: the case of women, indigenous migration into Yucatan]

Class 16

Tourism in the Yucatán: ecotourism and gastronomy of Yucatán

Recommended reading:

Ayora Díaz, Steffan Igor y Gabriela, Vargas Cetina, 2005, "Romantic Moods: Food, Beer, Music and the Yucatecan Soul" en Thomas M. Wilson, *Drinking Cultures*, United Kingdom, Berg, p. 155- 178.

[Yucatecan regional identity and the attraction to tourism]

Class 17

Tourism in Yucatan: ecotourism and gastronomy of Yucatan

Recommended reading:

Taylor, Sarah, 2011 "Maya cosmopolitans: engaging tactics and strategies in the performance of tourism"

[Tourism in Mayan communities of Yucatán]

Class 18

Tourism in the Yucatán: ecotourism and gastronomy of Yucatan

Recommended reading:

Little, Walter E., 2000 "Home as a Place of Exhibition and Performance: Mayan Household Transformations in Guatemala" en *Ethnology*, Vol. 39, No. 2, University of Pittsburgh- Of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, p. 163-181.

[Tourism in Mayan communities of the Yucatán]

Class 19

Tourism in the Yucatán: ecotourism and gastronomy of the Yucatán

Recommended reading:

Cabrera Serrano, Donna Catalina, 2005 "Identidad y Globalización: encuentros y transformaciones entre las cocinas nacionales" en *Universitas Humanística*, año/vol. XXXII, número 060, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, p. 85-93

[Gastronomy in Yucatán-national, regional and local cuisine]

Class 20

Outing for Culture Class (Migrants downtown)

Class 21

Literature and Art

Archaeology of the Yucatán

[Main archaeological sites in the Yucatán their importance in the eco-touristy terms]

Class 22

Documentary: Juventud Maya. Problemas y retos en Yucatán

Class 23

Student group presentations of selected topic

Class 24

Overview of topics and final notes

Class 25

Final essay due