***Course Syllabus***

**Hist 4315 (3 credit hours)**

**ARHM 2344 (3 credit hours)**

**Study Abroad in Latin America: Oaxaca, Mexico**

**Summer 2019**

**Professor Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

HIST 4315/ARHM 2344 is designed around a six-week immersion in Oaxaca, Mexico to give students an opportunity for hands-on learning and advanced research in society and culture in Mexican history. Curriculum will include customized Spanish instruction (based on required co-enrollment in SPAN 4315) to develop the vocabulary and grammar necessary for advanced research related in history, culture, and social issues that are of relevance to participants. Students in HIST 4315/ARHM will develop a working knowledge of historical trends related to society and culture in Mexico and will engage in immersion exercises to develop and reinforce that knowledge. Special focus will be placed on the following themes:

* The role of medicine, science, and public health historically and in Mexico today
* Social justice issues such as migration, education reform, and local activism
* Small business culture and daily life

Background information will be covered thoroughly through formal lectures, discussions, Spanish workshops, films, guest speakers and other activities in an organized classroom setting on the campus of the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca. Students will then experience living history interactively through structured tours and field excursions during the six-week program. Such activities will include museum tours, visits to farming collectives, a tour of local micro-lending facilities, observations in migrant health clinics, and special projects in herbal medicinal practices. Guest lectures from a *curandera* (natural healer), Mexican scholars, public officials, and public health professionals will provide students a more interactive experience with Mexican history and culture.

This course requires co-enrollment in SPAN 4315: Study Abroad in Spanish (3 credit hours). Curriculum for SPAN 4315 is integrated with HIST 4315 to provide intensive language instruction as a part of historical and cultural studies. Students will enroll in a total of 6 credit hours for the Oaxaca Study Abroad Program. Students have the option to enroll in HIST 4315 or ARHM 2344. Students enrolled in HIST 4315 will complete a more extensive final project to reflect the upper level course expectations.

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

* Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of general themes in Mexican cultural and society from the colonial era to the present through written, oral, and creative expressions.
* Students will express a more profound understanding of the relationship between history, culture, and public health, social justice, and daily life in Mexican and Latin American history through their immersion and interactive experience in Oaxaca.
* Students will be able to use their knowledge of the Spanish language, to engage in advanced research and study in the history of Mexican society and culture.
* Students will demonstrate their ability to connect concepts introduced in a classroom setting (lectures, readings, etc.) to the living history that is observable through the six-week immersion in Mexico

**Language Proficiency**

Basic Spanish proficiency is not required for enrollment in this program, but students are strongly encouraged to have completed at least one semester of Spanish (or the equivalent) prior to departure.

**Required Textbooks and Materials**

Jeffrey Pilcher, *Que Vivan los Tamales! Food and the Making of Mexican Identity* (University of New Mexico Press, 1998) ISBN: 0826318738

Liza Bakewell, *Madre: Perilous Journeys with a Spanish Noun* (University of New Mexico Press, 2012)

Other reading materials will be available on the McDermott Library E-Reserve system and/or distributed in Oaxaca.

**Grading Policy**

The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participation  Spanish Vocabulary/Grammar Quizzes | 100 points  100 points |
| Group Blog  Final Project | 100 points  200 points |
| **Total** | **500 points** |

**Course & Instructor Policies**

No late assignments will be accepted and there is no make-up policy for in-class work. I will NOT accept final versions of any assignments as e-mail attachments.

**All assignments for this class are mandatory. Materials used in this course have been carefully selected for their scholarly value, but some audiences may take offense at topics of a sensitive nature. There will be NO substitutions of readings, films, documents, presentations, and/or other course requirements to suit personal preferences. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.**

**Assignments**

**Class Participation:** This is a participation-heavy course and all students are expected to participate in class discussions, field activities, etc. During formal class meetings, students must actively engage in discussions and other activities. Those discussions will focus on the topics introduced in lecture, films, field trips, and relevant readings. Please arrive to class ready to participate in class discussions.

Field trip assignments in Oaxaca also require active engagement by students. Field trips will complement the information being presented by the instructor and by guest speakers each week. Excursions will also provide opportunities to experience history first-hand and to form a strategy for completing the final project.

**Group Blog:** Students will write a group blog based on experiences and observations each week. The focus of this blog should be processing the living history based on the foundational knowledge acquired in readings, lectures, films, and other classroom activities.

**Final Project:** For the final project in this course, you may work individually or in pairs and prepare an oral presentation on a theme or topic of your choice that relates to activities from the trip to Oaxaca. This presentation may be creative or scholarly in nature. Presentation topics must be chosen and approved by the end of the second week of the trip. Presentations will be given in a public forum during the final week of the trip. Students are encouraged to use field trips and interactions with guest speakers to build the final project.

**Topic/Activity Suggestions for Final Projects**

* En Via Micro Lending
* Community Health Programs in Valle de Tlacolula
* Natural Healing and Herbal Medicine
* Central American Migrants in Oaxaca
* Guelaguetza and Public Ritual
* Primary Document Research in Municipal or State Archive
* Soundscapes of Oaxaca
* Environmental Sustainability in Oaxaca
* English Instruction in Zapotec Communities
* Art and/or Literature of Oaxaca
* Tourist Development in Oaxaca state
* Popular Religion
* Urban Planning in Oaxaca City
* Cultural Meaning the Culinary Experience (food, mescal, etc.)
* Landscapes of Public Health (walkers, joggers, bike lanes, zumba in el llano, etc.)

**Academic Calendar:**

The following schedule outlines the topics and reading assignments for each class. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes made to the schedule and/or any other course requirements will be announced in class and will be posted on the course website: www.utdallas.edu/~mrankin.

Pre-Departure Orientation

Date: TBD

* All students are required to attend a pre-departure orientation session to be held on UT-Dallas campus. The orientation session will include:
* UT-Dallas International Center Study Abroad Protocols
* Foreign Travel Safety Orientation
* Academic and Social Etiquette Overview for Oaxaca
* Initial language proficiency assessment (this assessment will be repeated on the first day of class, and on a weekly basis throughout the program).