



Social Concerns Seminar

Mexico Seminar

In Oaxaca, Mexico for ten to twelve days
Dates TBD; anticipated departure after May 22, 2006

THEO 366/1.0 Credit
Spring/Summer/Fall 2006

LEARNING AGREEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Mexico Seminar is a one-credit seminar, Theology 366, that provides students the opportunity for ten to twelve days of experiential-learning in Oaxaca, Mexico in May 2006. During the 2006 spring semester, students meet weekly to learn about and engage in personal faith-sharing, to read about and discuss Catholic Social Teachings, and to learn to use both faith and the church's social teachings as lenses through which to reflect upon the cultural, religious, social, economic, political and environmental forces operative in Mexico and throughout the globalized world. While in Mexico, students work at local non-governmental organizations serving the Oaxacan community, meet with community leaders to hear about the relationship between their faith and the work they do, stay with indigenous families in a community outside of the city of Oaxaca, visit local religious, historical and cultural sites, and participate in daily reflection.

OBJECTIVES

1. Faith-Sharing: To learn about and participate in personal faith-sharing and to identify its important relationship to the critical analysis of cultural, religious, social, economic, political and environmental factors influencing Mexico and other developing countries.
2. Issues Facing Mexico: To become more aware of and educated about the cultural, religious, social, economic, political and environmental factors influencing Mexico and its people, and to examine these factors through the lenses of faith and Catholic Social Teachings.
3. Response: To make a commitment to developing strong personal faith, to implementing Catholic Social Teachings to life choices, to focus on and learn about one issue of injustice and explore ways to make positive change, and to share the Catholic Christian worldview with others.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

The program is open to any student in good standing at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, or Holy Cross College. Seniors not returning during the Fall of 2006 (when final reflection takes place and course credit is given) are not eligible. Spanish language is helpful but not required. Ten to fifteen students will be selected to participate in the program. The course is graded "S" or "U" (to appear on Fall 2006 grade reports).

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Attendance at weekly course meetings and preparatory sessions
- ✓ Completion of assigned readings
- ✓ Participation in group and individual fundraising efforts
- ✓ Commitment to all group activities in Mexico
- ✓ Reflection paper/project (5-7 pages) due
- ✓ Participation in follow-up session(s) and evaluation upon return in the Fall
- ✓ Commitment to share learning with others upon return (through presentations, etc.), and helping, as possible, to plan next seminar

EXPENSES

The student contribution and seminar fee is \$650.00 plus the cost of their roundtrip transportation from their hometowns to Oaxaca. Travel documents, vaccinations, and personal expenses are also the student's responsibility. Students will take initiative to fund-raise to offset the seminar fee (in the past these have been quite successful). Students will be expected to participate in any group fundraising efforts.

A deposit of \$100 must accompany the application. **This deposit becomes non-refundable if you are accepted into the program** (the deposit will be refunded if you are not accepted). A second payment of \$400 will be required by spring break. If fundraising efforts are less successful, a final payment will be due May 1, 2006.

A limited amount of scholarship assistance may be available.

APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

An Information Session will be held on Wednesday, November 30, 2005. This session is meant to answer questions and will include presentations by past participants.

Applications for the seminar must be turned in to the Center for Social Concerns by **Monday, January 19, 2006.**

Applicants will be notified of acceptance via email no later than January 24th. Contracts of participation need to be signed and returned by January 31st. DART registration will take place in spring for the Fall 2006 semester.

DROPS

Since the seminar involves extensive planning and coordination, please do not apply if you have conflicts with the scheduled events/dates. Students who find it necessary to drop due to extenuating circumstances must complete necessary forms no later than the official drop date to avoid an Unsatisfactory grade.

HISTORY OF SEMINAR

The project began in the early 1960's with the efforts of CILA (Community for the International Lay Apostolate), a Notre Dame student organization that facilitated service opportunities in Latin America. University President Edward Malloy, C.S.C., participated in a CILA summer of service in Mexico.

Reflecting on his experience, he wrote:

The kinds of questions I took back to the classrooms of Notre Dame were radically different from those I was accustomed to asking. I began to have a real awareness of inequality, of inequitable distribution of wealth, of cultural discrimination, and of many other conditions I had read about in books and heard about in lectures, but which until then had not sunk in quite the same way. A liveliness and an intense curiosity toward educational opportunities available to me in the university setting flowed naturally from the experiences that I had in the summer.

— Edward A. Malloy, C.S.C. *Beyond the Ivory Tower: Some Guidelines for Social Justice Education* (1990)

The Seminar is now coordinated by the Center for Social Concerns and integrates course credit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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CALENDAR: SPRING/SUMMER/FALL 2006

November 30
(Wednesday)

INFORMATION SESSION
TBA at the Center for Social Concerns

January 19
(Thursday)

APPLICATIONS DUE
DEPOSIT DUE \$100 (NON-REFUNDABLE IF ACCEPTED)

January 30
(Monday)

APPLICANTS NOTIFIED OF ACCEPTANCE
Notification by email

February 6
(Monday)

CONTRACTS SIGNED AND RETURNED

February 13
(Monday)

FIRST MEETING (Time/Location TBD)

February-May	WEEKLY MEETINGS AT CSC Tentative meetings on Tuesday late afternoon/early evening
	KEEP TUESDAY LATE AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING OPEN when planning spring semester. Other dates and activities to be determined by coordinator and participants.
March 4	\$400.00 2nd PAYMENT DUE
April	REGISTER for course by last course registration day
April 29	FINAL PAYMENT DUE
May 8-12	FINAL EXAMS
May 13-22	RETURN HOME/STAY AND WORK ON CAMPUS
May 22	TENTATIVE DEPARTURE for Oaxaca
May 22-June 5	TENTATIVE DATES IN OAXACA, MEXICO
June 5	RETURN to U.S./Optional Personal Travel in Mexico
Summer 2006	WRITE AND SUBMIT REFLECTION PAPER
September 2006	TWO REQUIRED FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS (Dates/Times TBA)

GENERAL SCHEDULE IN OAXACA, MEXICO

Day 1	Depart U.S. and arrive in Oaxaca
Day 2-3	Orientation to city and visits to work sites
Days 4-5	Travel to distant indigenous village in the mountains of Oaxaca state. Live and work in the fields and at home with indigenous families. Visit local school and participate in activities with children. Group hike in the mountains.
Day 6	Visit nearby indigenous village of artisans
Day 7	Mass/Free day
Day 8-11	Morning prayer, breakfast, work at one of several sites in am, meet as a group for lunch, work at a second site in the afternoon. Return to accommodations, share dinner, meet with community leaders, evening prayer/reflection, free-time, lights out.
Day 12	Free day, dinner together, final reflection session
Day 13	Depart for home or extended personal travel in Mexico

Possible Work Sites for First Week:

Nino a Nino, a local grassroots organization helping children educate other children about environment and health issues.

Monte Alban, a poor community where students visit and work with children trained by Nino a Nino.

Coral, a local organization teaching deaf children and their parents how to communicate verbally.

Prosa, a clinic for natural medicine.



APPLICATION

SOCIAL CONCERNS SEMINAR: MEXICO

NAME _____ ID# _____

CURRENT YEAR (Please Circle): Junior Sophomore Freshman Graduate

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

MAJOR(S) _____ MINOR(S) _____

SCHOOL (Please Circle): Notre Dame St. Mary's College Holy Cross College

COLLEGE (Please Circle): AL BA EG SC FY GRAD LAW MBA

PERMANENT ADDRESS (Parents' address or address for summer 2005):

HOME PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please Circle: MALE or FEMALE AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

Please Circle: Asian/Pacific Islander Hispanic/Latino Caucasian/Euro American

Multiracial American Indian/Alaskan Native Black/African American Other _____

Do you carry Health Insurance? _____ Is your insurance coverage int'l? _____

(University regulations require all seminar participants to carry health insurance. If your insurance company does not cover you internationally, you can purchase an inexpensive plan.)

Can you attend the weekly spring course meetings (Sunday afternoons) Yes No

Will you be returning to the Notre Dame Campus for study in the fall of 2006? Yes No

Please indicate your level of Spanish competency (there is no language requirement):

ESSAYS (Please print, type, or attach your answers)

1. What interests you about the Seminar and its objectives described in the learning agreement? Why do you want to participate (i.e., what do you hope to gain, learn, etc.)?
2. Describe why you would be a good candidate for this program. In addition to your interest in participating, what skills, energies, ideas, or potential contributions may you offer?
3. Please indicate prior service/volunteer work, international experiences, and related courses you have had (you do not need to repeat what you may have mentioned above).
4. Please assess honestly your strengths **and** weaknesses in regard to faith-sharing, relating to different cultures, customs, people, foods, and to living in conditions of poverty.

Return this application to the Center for Social Concerns by **Monday, January 19, 2006**, with a **\$100 registration deposit** (if you are accepted into the program, the registration fee is **non-refundable**; if you are not accepted, your deposit will be returned).

I have read the Learning Agreement, and accept its terms and conditions and agree to conduct myself according to the regulations as stated in ***DU LAC***:

Signed _____

Date _____