Latin American History, Culture and the Spanish Language

Open Studies
Fall 2018 Central America
Latin American History, Culture and the Spanish Language

You are about to embark upon an unconventional course! This is a 3.5 months open studies-tour about Latin America while traveling and living in Latin America. So, you will play many roles: you are a traveller, a researcher, a student, a learner, a teacher, a new friend for somebody, an adventurer; a global citizen.

Latin America is not only a big place, it is a large set of ideas: conceptually and culturally. My goal is ambitious: to share with you my knowledge and to guide you through 800 years of Latin American history! I recognize that it would be impossible to cover all periods and aspects. But I will give you a general and in-depth introduction to this amazing region of the American continent.

On top of the history and the culture, I would teach you Spanish!

You will have the opportunity to learn more and to practice your Spanish, every day, for almost four months!

What will you learn on this study-tour?

• Superior reading, writing, and analytical skills.

• Inside knowledge and individual-interaction with the peoples, history and culture of Latin America beyond textbooks.

• Develop intercultural competence through experiences that will challenge your own values and cultural references.

• The ability to apply skills and knowledge learned to a range of courses in History, Culture, Economics, Politics, and beyond.

• You will be able to evaluate pertinent information and assertions regarding relevance, biases, stereotyping, manipulation, and other issues.

• From basic to intermediate Spanish oral skills applicable to any future Spanish course for university level.

• Understanding of the inextricable relation between language and culture.

• Learn to use the language in specific cultural contexts.

Course Outline
FEATURES

Full instructor support, ongoing assessment, group-discussions and group-based collaboration.

Authentic materials and real-life immersion in the society and culture.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is comprised of 7 segments to be completed in 3 months.

Segments are interlinked and will be discussed simultaneously.

The length of each segment will be flexible based on our tour itinerary.

On average, you will complete the activities and readings depending on the amount of group discussion, during our walking tours, during transports and study sessions.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

1. What is Culture?
2. What is Latin America?
3. What is America?
4. What is a Third World Country and Why?

SEGMENTS

Segment 1: History & Basic Spanish One
Segment 2: Geography and landscapes & Basic Spanish Two
Segment 3: Society, Race, Gender, Sex & Guess what? More Spanish
Segment 4: Religion, Celebrations and Traditions & More Spanish
Segment 5: Economy, Politics and Education & Sure, more Spanish
Segment 6: Gastronomy & Definitively more Spanish
Segment 7: Entertainment: Music, Dancing and Sports & Yes, more Spanish

REQUIREMENTS

You have one assignment only!

- Produce your own assignment about your open studies-tour-course.
- You are free to choose any topic. There would not be essay topic lists distributed.
- You do not need a bibliography. You need notes!
- Final assignment is due on December 7, 2018.
- You can use and combine many formats for your final assignment: writing, photography, documentary, Power Point presentation, interviews, social media, blogs, or any other idea or format of your own creativity is welcome.
- Read, study, and be familiar with course materials; think critically; engage, ask questions and question things; speak Spanish/habla español, be open to new ideas, be friendly, be happy!
COURSE MATERIALS


BREWER, STEWART, Latin American History Goes to The Movies. Understanding Latin America’s Past through Film, Routledge, 2016, pp.166.


ENSAYO SOBRE LAS REVOLUCIONES POLÍTICAS Y LA CONDICION SOCIAL DE LAS..., Examiner, Jan 24, 1863, 2869, British Periodicals, p. 56.


To start reading now!


Future readings will be assigned as we move on in our study-tour.