

SIMPSON COLLEGE
2010 MAY TERM OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL COURSE PROPOSAL

Date: 1-10-09

Name of proposer(s): David Richmond

Department(s): Art

Please check one of the following:

INTERNATIONAL Off-Campus Travel Course

I. Course Information

A. Course number, if course has been offered previously:

B. Course title:

A Photographic Study of Mayan Ruins in Mexico.

C. Transcript Course Title (max. 21 characters):

Mayan Ruins Photo Study

D. Course level (100/200/300): What is the rationale for offering the course at this level?

200 Level. This is an advanced course concerned with the discipline of photography combined with Art history and early Central American culture. I intend for the students to study all three areas with some depth. I believe that when you are studying three subjects in a short period there is not enough time to study any one of them with great detail.

E. Minimum enrollment:

(For 1 instructor, must be at least 10 students; for 2 instructors, must be at least 20 students.)

If proposed minimum is less than the requirement, provide a rationale for receiving variance.

Minimum enrolment is twenty students.

F. Maximum enrollment:

Maximum enrolment is twenty-five students.

II. Course Description

A. Course goals and objectives: Given that Simpson May Term Off-Campus Travel Courses aim to provide students with an active learning curriculum that integrates a rigorous academic program with experiential immersion activities, please outline the learning objectives for your course.

Students will explore their own artistic expression through the discipline of photography.

Students will learn about the Mayan civilization at the ruin sites of seven Mayan cities

Students will study the Art History and the Mayan culture.

In this May Term study we will travel to Mexico. We will fly to Mexico and take a Motor Coach to visit: 7 Mayan ruin sites, Several local markets, Historic Fransiscan public structures, Muesiums, Waterfalls and other natural sites of interst. The purpose of the trip is to photographically study the ruin sites and the locations around the sites. The Mayan sites that we will be studying are: Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Becan, Kohunlich, Palenque, Bonampak and Yaxchilan. Our purpose is also to learn about the present culture of the area that we are visiting and the culture that existed during the time that the Mayan's occupied and their civilization thrived in this area.

Students will learn about the Mayan civilization at the ruin sites of seven Mayan cities. Our group's itinerary will consist of traveling to the nearest city to a Mayan ruin. The first day after each travel day we will investigate the city

and markets through photography. The second day of each stop we will investigate the Mayan ruin in the area photographically. The first part of each ruin stop we will have a guided lecture that will describe the significance of that particular ruin site. The instructor will show us also various nuances of the architecture of each site. These sessions will occur each morning during a site visit. The afternoons will be used for photographic exploration. On the following day we will travel by motor coach to the next ruin site.

Students will be assigned a research paper to write before on the semester before travel. We will meet as a group on the evening after dinner on the second day of each travel cycle. At that time the students will give a presentation of the research that was completed during the Spring '10 semester. Please find the reading list for the student's research papers below:

Articles:

The Fall of the Maya Empire □by Lawrence H. Freeman □July 2000 Guadalajara-Lakeside Volume 16, Number 11., Available on the web.

MEXICO: LACONDON SELVA CONFLICT GROWS, Weinberg, Bill. NACLA Report on the Americas; May/Jun2003, Vol. 36 Issue 6, p26, 7p, 3 black & white photographs. Available through Ebsco host.

Books available in the Simpson library, and they will be put on reserve:

“Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya,” by Simon Martin, Kathleen Berrin, and Mary Miller

“Art of the Maya Scribe,” by Michael Coe

“The Maya,” by Michael D. Coe

Books available from Amazon.com:

Lacandon adventure: Last of the Mayas, Jonathon F Cassel

Maya Art and Architecture (World of Art), Mary Ellen Miller

- B. Rationale for the course: Please explain how the course fits in with your department and/or the college's curriculum.

This is clearly a course that satisfies the Cornerstone 7 requirement. It also explores art through the discipline of photography and Art History of the Mayan civilization.

- C. In-country activities: Describe how the planned immersion activities (these could include home stays, service learning opportunities, interviews with locals, Q & A sessions with local guest lecturers/speakers, etc.) will be integrated into educational goals of the course.

The class will be stopping in seven Mayan ruin locations. We will have all day to explore these locations with our cameras and we will have a guide in each location. The guides will take us on a tour of the significant aspects of each site and will lecture about the significant aspects and differences of each society that once inhabited the location. There will also be question and answer opportunities in each location.

- D. Required course assignments and evaluation

1. Explain specific course requirements and indicate when they would occur (e.g., P=during the on-campus spring semester prep course, O=off-campus, and D=during the de-briefing portion of the off-campus experience; it's possible that some assignments will happen in all of the periods, e.g., Readings could be P-O-D)
 - a. Students will explore their artist expression through photography while exploring all seven

Mayan ruins that we will visit. Students will study the art history of the Mayan culture through research papers. Students will learn about the Mayan civilization from lectures given at the ruin sites of seven Mayan cities that we will be visiting. P, O.

- b. Readings will be excerpts from the following printed materials: *Black & White Photography A Basic Manual*, by Henry Horenstein, *Photoshop CS2*, by Annesa Hartman and *Living with Art—8th edition*, by Mark Getland. P, O
 - c. Journal writing will be encouraged for a students' personal use. They will be used as a student's means of reflection and remembrance and will not be used as an evaluation tool. O
 - d. There will be a final test over the reading material. Research papers will be graded and the presentation of the research will be graded. P, O, D
 - e. All students on this trip will be assigned a research paper to write before the May term course that will be presented to the group during the off campus portion of the trip. The research topics will include information about: the Mayan culture, Mexico, and information of the local culture present and past from the areas that are part of the seven Mayan ruin sites (Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Becan, Kohunlich, Palenque, Bonampak and Yaxchilan.) P, O
2. Approximately what percentage will each of the above course requirements contribute toward the final course grade?

The test will be 50% of the grade, the research paper will be 25% of the grade and the presentation of the research will be 25% of the grade.

- D. Catalog course description of about 100 words which includes a statement of expected course work (papers, exams, journal writing, presentations, etc.)

In this May Term study we will travel to Mexico. We will study 7 Mayan ruin sites. The purpose of the trip is to photographically study the ruin sites and the locations around the sites. We will also learn about the Culture of the area around the sites and the culture that existed during the time that the Mayan's occupied and their civilization thrived. Journal writing will be encouraged. The evaluation for this course will be based on a test of the provided reading material that will concern aspects of photography and Art History of the Mayan civilization. Assigned research papers and the presentation of the research will also be evaluated.

- F. Are there prerequisites for this course? No
If yes, please list them and briefly provide a rationale.

III. Other Information

- A. Has this course been offered in a previous May Terms? No
If yes, please indicate *when* it was offered and the approximate enrollment.
- B. Department(s) in which credit is to be awarded: Art
- C. If this course will meet requirements for a departmental major or minor, please explain briefly:
This course will only meet the criteria for a departmental major or minor of the Art department if the Art Department Chair approves individual petitions.
- D. Proposed dates of the travel course, including dates you anticipate being abroad:
Our group will depart on Monday, April 26, 2010, and return on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.
- E. Proposed location(s) and how the site location(s) relate to the core objectives of the course:

During this course we will be traveling in Mexico. The reason we will be traveling to Mexico is that is where there are seven significant Mayan ruin sites which are: Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Becan, Kohunlich, Palenque, Bonampak and Yaxchilan. Exploring these unique locations using the art of photography and understanding the significance of these places on the culture of world is the bases for this course.

F. Indicate your level of familiarity with the site(s) visited during the course.

I studied Pre Columbian Art History at the University of Iowa. I am also aware of some of the theories of the original inhabitants of the Mayan civilization, which is one of the more advanced civilizations of the many complex societies that thrived and then disappeared in this area. I am aware of the distinct qualities of Mayan, art, architecture and writing by glyphs used by this culture. I have visited Palenque, one of the seven Mayan ruin sites of that we will be visiting.

G. Will the off-campus component of this course require a significant amount of physical exertion on the part of the course participants? On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being little physical exertion and 5 being a tremendous amount of physical exertion, please rate the anticipated activities related to this course. Do you anticipate that the course activities would pose any significant challenges for someone with physical disabilities?

This course can pose significant challenges for someone with physical disabilities. I would rate the physical exertion level at 3. Students will have the opportunity to climb onto the top of several Mayan Pyramids during their exploration of the seven ruin sites that we will be visiting. The students would also have the option of exploring the ruins from the ground level. There will be some walking required.

V. Proposed Budget for the Course
(A more precise estimate is not due until September 7, 2009)

First, estimate expenses for instructor(s) and course assistant(s), if any, (in total, not per student)

Instructor expenses are included in the per student charge

Air transportation	\$
In-country transportation	\$
Lodging	\$
Meals	\$
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Misc.	\$
Other (explain):	\$
Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses	\$0

Next, estimate the cost per student, based upon the minimum enrollment number (20) from page 1 of this document:

All-inclusive fee from travel provider	\$ 3,499
In-country transportation	\$
Lodging	\$
Meals	\$
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$
Honorariums	\$
Tips	\$ 25
Int'l Student I.D. card is now optional, \$25 each if desired	\$ 25
SC Study Abroad Program Fee	\$ 100
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Contingency fund (\$100 recommended)	\$ 100
	\$
Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$ 3,749

Finally, divide the "Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses" by "the minimum enrollment number (20) from page 1 of this document" to get a "per student instructor cost." Then add

Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$3,749
+ per student instructor cost	\$0
= Total per student cost	\$3,749

Additional expenses not covered by the program for which students need to budget:
For example, passport @ \$97, books, meals, immunizations, trip cancellation insurance, etc.

Total estimated additional expenses not covered by the course: \$100 to \$1000

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date: _____
(division of the instructor)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date: _____
(division of the instructor)