

massacre site of Acteal, the Abejas community of Tzajalchen, and the ruins of Palenque.

Cultural Syncretism: The Days of the Dead in Oaxaca

The Oaxaca region is known worldwide for its annual celebration of the Days of the Dead on November 1 and 2. On November 1, visit cemeteries in a variety of communities to observe their rituals and celebrations related to this holiday. Spend November 2 with your homestay as this holiday still rivals Christmas in the minds of many Oaxaqueños.

Neoliberal Trends and the Urban Sector: Mexico City as Challenge and Opportunity

Expand your growing knowledge of the impact of neo-liberal trends in Mexico during a stay in Mexico City and surrounding regions. Study tour combines visits to world-class museums and important historical sites with face-to-face meetings with U.S. Embassy officials and union organizers, presentations by Mexican scholars, and meetings with leaders of peasant organizations, NGOs and human rights organizations.

For more information

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Wang Center for Global Education

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PLU IN

OAXACA

Development, Culture, and Social Change

Study Away 2010-2011

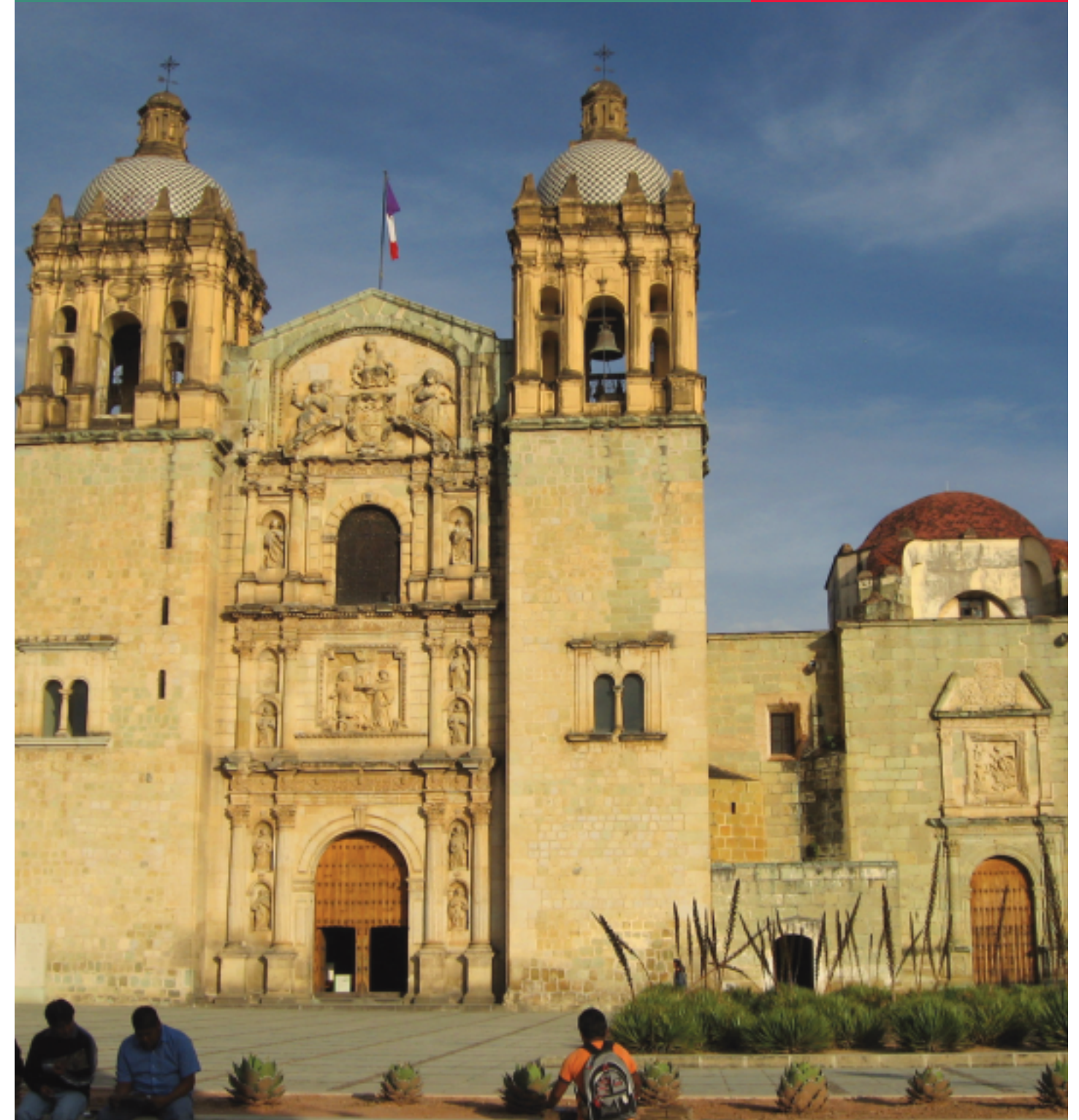


Photo taken by Katie Schlepp

At a Glance

Program Highlights

Program

Undergraduate language immersion. Focus on Spanish language, culture, development, and social change. Open to students who have taken four or five semesters of college-level Spanish.

Term

Fall semester program, from late August to the third week of December.

Features include

- Unique and challenging course options
- Qualified faculty from Oaxacan community
- U.S. academic credit

- Internship opportunities
- Study tours throughout Oaxaca region and the state of Chiapas
- On-site orientation and support
- U.S. visiting faculty member
- Opportunities for independent travel

Costs Include

- Tuition
- Study tours
- Home stay and two meals a day and meal stipend
- Supplemental medical insurance
- ISIC card optional

Why Study Away?

The world is becoming a series of interconnected neighborhoods, and in your lifetime the ability to exist easily and respectfully in all of them as a global citizen will become an essential human skill. When you decide to study away, you embrace the opportunity to be challenged beyond the familiar surroundings of your own culture and campus. The Oaxaca program will stretch you as you become immersed in the important issues facing Mexico today. When you pack your bags for Oaxaca, you'll bring what you need to live for a semester in a new country and culture. When you pack your bags to return home, you'll carry with you a new world of knowledge, skills and perspectives that will serve you for a lifetime. Studying in Mexico will change you forever.

Where Will You Go?

Situated in the Oaxaca Valley and surrounded by mountain peaks reaching as high as 10,000 feet, Oaxaca, the capital city of the State of Oaxaca, is almost as biologically diverse as its people. With roughly sixteen linguistically and culturally isolated indigenous communities, Oaxaca is a microcosm of the diversity and cultural richness of contemporary Mexican society and culture.



Photo taken by Neal Sobania

While rich in history and culture, the State of Oaxaca lags behind the rest of Mexico in economic areas. On average, the daily earning per worker in Oaxaca is \$4.60, compared to the national average of \$8.10. This program examines how the Oaxacan community has organized and responded to some of its most difficult social and economic problems, along with exploring the development, culture and social change in contemporary Mexico.

The Oaxaca site director for fall 2010 is Prof. Monica Dehart, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Puget Sound. When you arrive in Oaxaca you'll meet Prof. Dehart and you'll study at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca – ICO – which specializes in teaching the Spanish language and Mexican society and culture. The Instituto is a centrally located, spacious, and well-equipped former colonial estate, with public transportation available in all directions. Students can receive mail and access email at the Instituto.

What Will You Study?

The program has three sessions designed to support your success in achieving advanced language proficiency in Spanish and developing a broader, and deeper understanding of Mexican history, development, society and culture through an inter-disciplinary understanding of ancient, modern, and contemporary Mexico. PLU students will be awarded up to 12 credits towards a Spanish major or minor when they complete the Oaxaca program.

Session I is a required three-week language intensive and general introduction to Oaxacan culture and society, designed to improve your overall language proficiency and to prepare you for content-focused coursework and an optional internship in Session III.

Session II is an eight-week semester of coursework in other disciplines. You select 8 credits total from the available options. Your professors include language faculty from the Instituto, the PLU or UPS site director, as well as highly qualified Oaxacan scholars in anthropology, history and sociology. Session III is a four-week semester where you select from a full time internship or a course in the extraordinary arts of Oaxaca.

Required Core Course

Session I HISP 302/402

Four hours of Spanish daily for three weeks, in small classes. Optional – but strongly encouraged – afternoon workshops in Oaxacan ceramics, weaving, cuisine, salsa dancing, and ethnomusicology. (4)

PHED 250

Beginning Salsa (optional). (1)

Selected Elective Courses

Session II ANTH 337

Critical review of Mexican anthropology (1909-2004) with an emphasis on the construction of indigenous identities in post-revolutionary Mexico. (4)

SOC 387: Oaxacan Society C, S2

This is a three-part sociological examination of Oaxacan institutions and society. The course begins with the study of the family, gender roles and sexuality. It continues with an in-depth analysis of the complex system of the “Law of Traditions and Customs” that yields a political, social and cultural organization that is unique to the Oaxacan context and in which the intersection of gender and ethnicity has unique implications. The course concludes with a critical examination of social problems

“My Oaxaca experience was both challenging and rewarding. By the end of the semester, my ability to speak Spanish was much improved; I had a deeper understanding of Mexican society and Oaxacan culture and a greater awareness of my own strength and independence.”

—Katie Silveria, 2006 participant



in contemporary Oaxaca and an evaluation of approaches to them. Taught off-campus as part of PLU Fall Semester Program in Oaxaca. (4)

HIST 387: History of Mexico in Oaxaca

Historical development of Mexican society and culture as an intersection of social, political, cultural and economic factors. Emphasis on roles of religion, education policy, and peasant movements in the Oaxacan context. (4)

HISP 302/402: Advanced Grammar and Composition

Advanced Spanish grammar and conversation. Continuation of Spanish 302 with emphasis on acquisition of advanced level competency in speaking, listening, writing, and reading Spanish. (4)

HISP 433: Mexican Literature

Special topics in Latin American literature and culture focusing on Mexican literature and the visual arts. (4)

Session III

ARTD 387: Oaxacan Arts - AR

This course explores the rich artistic and folk art traditions in the state of Oaxaca with a special emphasis on historical development and current trends in textiles, ceramics, sculpture and painting. Course includes required fieldtrips and will be based, in part, at the soon to be inaugurated International Textile Museum in Oaxaca. (4)



Photo taken by Liz Hirschl

COOP 477

International Work Experience
A supervised educational internship experience in a non-profit or community organization in Oaxaca. Requires completion of additional application process, International Cooperative Education Agreement, clearance checklist, and an approved plan of reporting in consultation with a faculty advisor. With prior approval, course can be cross-listed for independent study credit in the student's major field. (4)

What Will You See?

In addition to several day trips to important sites and villages outside the city of Oaxaca – including archeological sites, regional markets, and the largest tree in the world – the program includes three study tours, ranging from a few days to a week in length. These educational travel opportunities will provide you with unique ways to explore some of Mexico's pressing challenges and the actions being taken by individuals, communities, and agencies to address them.

Communities of Hope in La Mixteca

Learn first-hand about the push/pull factors impacting immigration of Oaxacans to the U.S. Explore one community's hopeful response to threats of soil erosion and migration to their centuries-old livelihood based on subsistence farming.

Oaxaca and Chiapas: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Community Development in Mexico South

Through an extended study tour to the southern region of Oaxaca and the state of Chiapas, you will engage in a cross-cultural comparison of community development. You

will learn first hand about the origin and impact of the Zapatista movement both locally and nationally; explore the cultural diversity of Mayan peoples; and deepen your knowledge about the impact of U.S. policy in the region. This study tour includes visits to Juchitán, and to the former capital of the state of Chiapas and site of the first Zapatista rebellion, San Cristobal de las Casas. Visits in Chiapas also include the Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center and other active NGOs, the >>

Application Procedure

Program Prerequisites

- Sophomore, junior, or senior standing
- Completion of Spanish 202, preferably 301, or equivalent
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- In good standing with the university
- Ideal for students wanting to master the Spanish language and with an interest in Latin American Studies, social justice and development.

Fall 2010 applications due to the Wang Center for Global Education by March 15, 2010.

Semester application available in the Wang Center and on-line at www.plu.edu/wangcenter/resources