

Course Syllabus (Tentative)

Central America for Educators: Exploring Past and Present Pre-class discussion and travel seminar from August 1 – 8, 2010

Instructor: Debra Delavan, d.delavan@verizon.net, (301) 570-0186
2 graduate credits from Augsburg College

Course Description: Students will participate in an 8-day course in El Salvador and Guatemala. During this time they will have the opportunity to hear and engage with speakers from different parts of society. Prior to the in-country experience, students will do required readings and participate in 4 hours of discussion. While in country, students will participate in 6 additional hours of class time.

Course Objectives: During this course, students will

- a. Learn and *experience* new teaching methodologies including popular education, etc.
- b. Learn about the current social, economic, and political situations in both countries, with some focus on causes for emigration.
- c. Experience some form of multi-cultural education in which participants learn about Guatemalan, Salvadoran, urban, and rural cultural attitudes toward formal education, learning in general, family, migration to the U.S., and other elements that might help teachers in the U.S. better understand their students with Guatemalan or Salvadoran background.
- d. Visit Mayan ruins and learning about Mayan history, connecting that history to the Maya today.

Expectations of student learning and participation

Students will

1. Participate in 4 hours of pre-course discussion. The discussion may be on-line or in person. Discussion will be based on readings. Students will be required to submit questions and provide input to discussion that demonstrates thorough understanding of the readings.
2. Participate in all of the organized speaking events and activities during the visit to El Salvador and Guatemala. This will include at least 12 hours with speakers from the region.
3. Participate in 6 hours of class discussion while in the region.
4. Complete reading assignments.
5. Complete the following written assignments
 - a. Develop 3 discussion questions, based on readings.

- b. One lesson plan applying knowledge gained to a specific classroom setting.
- c. One 3-5 page typed, double-spaced, paper applying the in-country experience and the readings to multicultural education. Answer the question: How did the course help you better understand cultural, social, and historic backgrounds of students from El Salvador and Guatemala? How can you apply this to your interactions with students?

OR

- d. One 3-5 page typed, double-spaced, paper applying the in-country experience and the readings to specific instruction you will use in class. How will this course influence the way you teach? Give specific examples of how and where you will use information from this course in your instruction.

Required reading:

Select readings from Center for Global Education, including on-line current events.

Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paolo Freire

AND

One of the following:

Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother by Sonia Nazario

Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean, 3rd Edition, by Peter Winn

Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History (8th Edition)

by Bradford E. Burns, Julie A. Charlip

Born in Blood And Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, Second Edition by John Charles Chasteen

Graded assignments:

Assignment	Point value/%
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	of final grade
1) 3 discussion questions based on reading	5
2) pre-trip discussion based on reading (4 hours)	20
3) discussion during the trip (6 hours)	25
4) lesson plan	25
5) 3-5 page paper	25

Grading scale for this course:

95-100% = 4.0 (A)

90-94% = 3.5 (A-/B+)

85-89% = 3.0 (B)

80-84% = 2.5 (B-/C+)

75-79% = 2.0 (C)

Below 75% receives no credit or an N grade.

One month before the beginning of the course, assignment descriptions and rubrics along with a detailed schedule of in-country speakers. If you have questions before this time, please contact the instructor.