

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MEXICO

Democracy and the Fight for Social Justice

June 25-July 3, 2012

About the Seminar

Academics disagree on when democracy was born in Mexico or if it has been achieved. The country has a long history of fraud, and the last presidential election in 2006 was disputed.

As the 2012 elections approach, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which governed for most of the 20th century, is gaining strength and has a chance of coming back to power. The war between liberals and conservatives that started at the creation of the country seems to continue with little variation. Some want the right-wing PRI to take control again; others want the extreme left Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) to take over as inequity is still a large problem. Very few, according to recent surveys, want Felipe Calderón's party, the extreme right National Action Party (PAN), to continue as leaders after 12 years in power where the gap between rich and poor has increased and the war on drugs has caused more than 40,000 deaths.

A firsthand experience of the presidential elections in July 2012 will be a fascinating experience, especially after Mexico celebrated its bicentennial as an independent country and is still looking for social justice.

This travel seminar will examine different perspectives on the upcoming elections and its possible outcome as well as the key issues the new government will face within the current context of neoliberalism and globalization. This program will also explore current economic and social conditions, key issues in Mexico, and cultural aspects that fascinate the world.

Direct encounters with local people will be complemented by social analysis and group reflection.

Possible Program Content

- Overview of Mexican politics, economics, current social movements, and human rights concerns
- Analysis of the war on drugs
- Visit to the Federal Elections Institute
- Panel with members from the different political parties
- Visit to the U.S. Embassy
- Experience the elections firsthand
- Pre- and post-elections analysis
- Excursions to local areas of interest

Accommodations

We utilize our CGE study center or modest local hotels for lodging. You can generally expect to be housed two or more to a room, which will be dormitory-style with bunkbeds and shared bathrooms.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SEMINAR



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Cost

The estimated cost of this travel seminar is \$1,495. This includes pre- and post-trip resource materials, in-country programming, language interpretation, honoraria for local resource people, all meals and lodging, ground transportation, fees for activities included in the program. This price does not include airfare or passport fees.

Application and Payment

We welcome you to apply online! Just click on the registration link from the short-term travel seminars page of our website and scroll down to the trip dates. Have your passport and health insurance information with you when you register. If you do not have a passport, you may still register but should apply for a passport as soon as possible. If you do not have online access, contact us for an application packet.

A \$250 deposit is required with your application. This deposit will be refunded only if the Center cancels the seminar. This deposit can be made by credit card or check, either online or by mail.

Your application and deposit must be received no later than April 16, 2012. An "early bird" discount of \$100 is available to participants who register by January 16, 2012. In some cases, space may be available after the April 16, 2012 deadline – please contact the Center for more information. Final payment for the travel seminar will be due May 7, 2012. Check our website or contact our office for more information (see back page for contact details).

If the purpose of attending this seminar is to help you maintain or improve skills relating to employment or business, expenses relating to the seminar may be tax-deductible according to IRC Reg. 1.162-5. Please consult your tax adviser.

Mission

The Center for Global Education at Augsburg College provides cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical analysis of local and global conditions so that personal and systemic change takes place leading to a more just and sustainable world.

Background

Founded in 1982, the Center is nationally recognized for its work in experiential, intercultural, and educational travel opportunities. The Center has coordinated more than 10,000 seminars, which are well-known and respected for exposing travelers to a variety of points of view, especially the perspectives of those working for justice and human dignity. The Center has also served over 2,000 students from more than 300 colleges and universities through our undergraduate summer, semester, and internship programs in Mexico, Central America, and Southern Africa.

Excellence

The Center was the 2003 recipient of the National Society for Experiential Education Program of the Year Award. CGE was recently recognized as a finalist in GoAbroad's Innovation Awards in two categories: technology and sustainability. CGE was also selected as a runner-up for the Diversity Network Innovation Award from Diversity Abroad. In 2012, CGE will celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Affiliation

Augsburg College, founded in 1869, is a private liberal arts and sciences college in Minneapolis, Minnesota.