

Yucatan 2006
EDUC 3830: Ways of Reading
STDA 2040: Culture, History and Literature in the Maya World

Registration Deadlines and Course Information

Deposit Deadline: March 10, 2006

To reserve your spot, you must submit (1) a \$500.00 deposit and (2) a completed registration packet by March 10, 2006.

URGENT: If you do not have a passport, apply immediately to your local post office or college/university for one. It takes a minimum of 2 months to get a passport. For Mexico, it is also possible to use a certified copy of your birth certificate for customs and boarding airplanes.

NOTE: Be sure to deduct this amount when mailing in your final tuition (due **April 30, 2006**).

Your **registration packet** should include:

1. Deposit (\$500)
2. Course Application Form (Millsaps or Non-Millsaps)
3. Eligibility Statement
4. Summer School Application Form
5. Health Statement
6. Liability Waiver (Signed)
7. Proof of insurance, if you have complete international travel coverage

Full Payment Deadline: April 30, 2006

- Faculty recommendation
- All fees are paid
- Copy of your flight itinerary (please send us a copy as soon as you make travel arrangements)
- Copy of your passport or certified copy of your birth certificate

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

- 1) Once registered, you will be given instructions for accessing course information and material on-line, where you will find the reading and writing assignments that must be completed prior to arriving in Mexico.
- 2) Your final grade will be based on work completed prior to the time abroad, work and participation in the field, and the final paper (due by June 30, 2006).
- 3) You may not elect to miss any scheduled learning activity. You are not tourists; you are there to learn.

Travel Tips:

- 1) Bring at least \$400.00 in cash or your ATM card. On similar programs, students have spent as little as \$230.00 and as much as \$600.00 plus! Be sure to tell your bank that you will be out of the country. Many have had their cards declined. (Occasionally we have had problems with establishments accepting travelers checks; they can only be cash at a bank during business hours.) Additional cash and credit cards are advisable. **Never leave your cash or credit cards in your room or alone in a vehicle.**
- 2) Do not drink the tap water or table water. Ask for bottled water, *aqua purificado en botella* or *aqua mineral (con gas or sin gas...* meaning with or without carbonation). Also, do not eat food from street vendors unless your guide says that it is probably OK.
- 3) The food in the restaurants is generally prepared in as sanitary an environment as in the U.S., so eat sensibly but not in fear.
- 4) Drink a lot of water, sports drink, and fruit juices! You should drink a liter or more of extra fluids every day. It will be very hot and you will become dehydrated if you do not continue to intake fluids as you perspire. If you are an athlete and plan on training, we recommend taking pre-measured sports drink powder in freezer bags.
- 5) You will need sun block, at least SPF 15 (**Paba free is preferred to protect reef critters**). It should be waterproof or you must apply it several times per day. If you snorkel, the sun is reflected from the water's surface and has the effect of surrounding your body like a tanning mirror. You will get sunburned if you do not use protection!
- 6) The only people who have gotten really sick, either with intestinal distress or dehydration, are the people who drank excessive amounts of alcohol-based libations the night before. You must not consume immoderate amounts of alcohol. It will make you hate the trip and the course. You will have to rise every day with all of the other students and you will feel terrible. Anyone not participating in any portion of a day's activities will have their grades penalized accordingly.
- 7) The laws in Mexico concerning alcohol and illegal drugs are the same as the U.S. or tougher! If you are under the legal drinking age in Mexico, do not drink. If you purchase or possess illegal drugs in Mexico and are arrested, do not expect that I can do ANYTHING for you. You may not even have the privilege of "one phone call" so I may not even know you have been arrested. You are guilty until proven innocent! You will face a long and dreadful prison sentence. Watch the classic movie about an American young person imprisoned in a foreign jail for possession of drugs, *Midnight Express*. This movie will change your attitude!
- 8) Although the "bugs" are not bad this time of year, while you are in the dry, seasonal forest around Rancho Kiuic and Hacienda Tabi, you should have insect repellent on your exposed skin. Bring it with you.

- 9) **EDUC 3830 participants: You will need casual professional attire for classroom visits. There is no air conditioning, so your clothes need to be loose, light-weight, comfortable and modest.**

Rules for Living:

- 1) Each and every person who is currently taking prescribed medications of any sort, including birth control pills and stomach acid inhibitors (Prylosec etc.), must declare each prescription on the health form. Failure to disclose a prescription drug will result in your being sent home.
- 2) You must follow all rules delivered to you by the faculty member in charge. Regulations are situational. What applies in one setting may not be appropriate in another. Failure to obey curfews, alcohol consumption and public behavioral guidelines are cause for being sent home.
- 3) Under no circumstances are you to “go out” without prior approval by and specific notification to your faculty and guides.
- 4) You must behave in a courteous, safe, and civilized manner at all times. We want to continue to develop a mutually respectful and friendly relationship with Yucatecans. No “ugly American” behavior will be tolerated. THINK about the role you are portraying in the eyes of the local residents.
- 5) Unless explicitly detailed to you by your leaders for a specific town or lodging facility, **under no circumstances** is it acceptable to leave the group to visit another business establishment or dwelling of a local resident or tourist.

Come to learn, have fun and to partake in a life-transforming experience.

¡Hasta pronto!

Items to consider bringing:

- Soft luggage like a duffel bag is best: 1 large one per person, please
- A backpack is also recommended for day trips and those nights when we will not be unpacking the van.
- The power grid in Mexico is the same as here. You can bring a hair dryer, but I wouldn't recommend it. If you want to bring a portable cd or mp3 player go ahead, all the discs you like as well. Laptops are discouraged; they will likely become damaged.

Clothing

- Sandals and comfortable walking shoes (running shoes). Boots not necessary.
- **EDUC 3830 participants:** at schools, no shorts or tank-tops; no midriff-baring shirts; casual, light-weight long pants or knee-length skirts; sleeveless blouses are OK; sandals are OK (no flip-flops).
- sundresses or wraps are useful in evenings
- shorts, t-shirts, tank-tops (light colored preferred). You will find that this is typically the clothing of choice; it's hot and humid.
- bathing suits

Other Supplies:

- If you are on prescription medication, make sure that you have a full supply! Prescription drugs cannot be shipped into the country! In emergencies we can get substitutes; however, they may not always be the same strength or brand. In fact, you should know the exact chemical name and dosage that you take.
- If you have special dietary needs, you will need to check on availability; if you need a special item, you may need to bring it.
- 2 towels
- camera
- notebook with perforated margins for writing assignments
- special “comfort foods” If you have a special treat, bring a supply. However, you may want to discover new delights.
- Waterproof sunscreen! Again paba free (does not harm reef critters)
- bug spray!
- Imodium AD (just in case)
- Advil, Tylenol, whatever....
- EDUC 3830 participants: postcards from home to show students where you are from
- **Your passport or birth certificate! You will not be allowed to get on the plane to Mexico—or return home—without them!!!** It is a good idea to make extra copies to keep in your backpack and suitcase, separate from your original, just in case!