

Spanish 3500G – Community Service Learning in the Hispanic World: Guatemala - History, Culture and People in Context Winter 2015



For more information, please contact:
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What is Community Service Learning (CSL)?

A course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students

- (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs, and
- (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility.

~ Bringle & Hatcher, 2009

You may have heard of:

- Alternative Spring Break, Western Serves, FRE3100B: Rwanda, Spanish 2200 and 3300

The course

Course Objectives:

- 1.To improve verbal and written communication in Spanish
- 2.To learn about the history, culture and people of Guatemala
- 3.To give students an opportunity to immerse themselves in an international environment to further develop intercultural competence
- 4.To increase students' understanding of the needs of global communities through effective international community service learning
- 5.To take part in Western's commitment to internationalization by increasing student mobility

Pre or Corequisite(s):

- Spanish 3300;
- Spanish 2215F/G or 2216F/G;
- Permission of the Department.



The course

Part 1: Winter 2015

Classroom study spread over one term on main campus

- Readings
- Group Presentations
- Guest Speakers
- Pre-Departure Orientation

Note: regular course fees apply

The course

Part 2: Spring 2015

May 2-23 3 weeks CSL in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Professor Alena Robin travels with the class

CSL projects with the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

Cultural activities and regular excursions

Nightly facilitated reflection

* additional fees apply

Note: students must participate in both the Winter and Spring components of this course.

Process of registration:

There are two steps to the application process:

- 1) Complete the online application form found on CareerCentral (Experience Tab → International CSL Course Applications) (open now!)
 - 2) Bring a \$50 cheque deposit to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures in AHB 3R02.
 - Payable to “Western University”,
 - Please put “Guatemala” in the Memo line
- **Deadline** of Application and \$50 deposit = **November 3**

Cheque will be returned to you if you are not selected to participate in the program. If you are selected, we will apply this deposit to your program fees.

Process of registration:

- **Enrolment** for course limited to **12 students**
- If necessary, interviews will be performed the week of November 17.
- Successful students will be informed by mid-November and will be granted special permission to register in the course
 - Required deposit of \$500
 - Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
 - **DUE: November 28**

Things to Consider

- Be available for travel Saturday, May 2 to Saturday, May 23, 2015
- All students are required to return to Western with the group (no exceptions!)
- Final fees are due by Friday, January 30, 2015
- Be willing to take necessary medical precautions (e.g., travel shots/vaccines)

Cost to Participate

Item	Cost
Flight (Return)	\$800.00
Program Fee (includes accomodation, food, ground transportation, and included excursions)	\$1,470.00
Travel and Medical Insurance*	\$75.00
Teaching Assistant Travel**:	
If 8 Students Participate - \$193	
If 10 Students Participate - \$155	
If 12 Students Participate - \$130	
Total	\$2,475 – \$2,538

*Note that students over the age of 50 will not be eligible to purchase Trip Cancellation and Health Insurance at this rate.

**The Teaching Assistant provides support and additional safety precautions to the group. Students cover the program fee of the TA.



Funding Opportunities

- Global Opportunities Awards (\$1000)
 - Facilitated by Western International
 - Students can apply twice a year (i.e. apply now and if you're not successful, apply again in Winter)
 - http://www.uwo.ca/international/learning/go_abroad//global_opp.html (or international.uwo.ca → Students tab → Funding Opportunities → Global Opportunities)
 - Next deadline is **November 15, 2014**



Typical Day – From Monday to Friday

- 8:00 am - Breakfast
- 9:00 am – School: Helping with English class, computer science, artistic expression, sport activities, library support, help to students with special needs, etc.
- 12:30 – 1h30 pm – Lunch
- 3:00 pm – Back to school for club activities: music, knitting, sport, chess, etc.
- 6:30 pm – Dinner
- Free time at night
- Every other night there will be group activities for reflection time
- 10:00 pm – Last entry to COFA
- 2 afternoons free for visits in the city



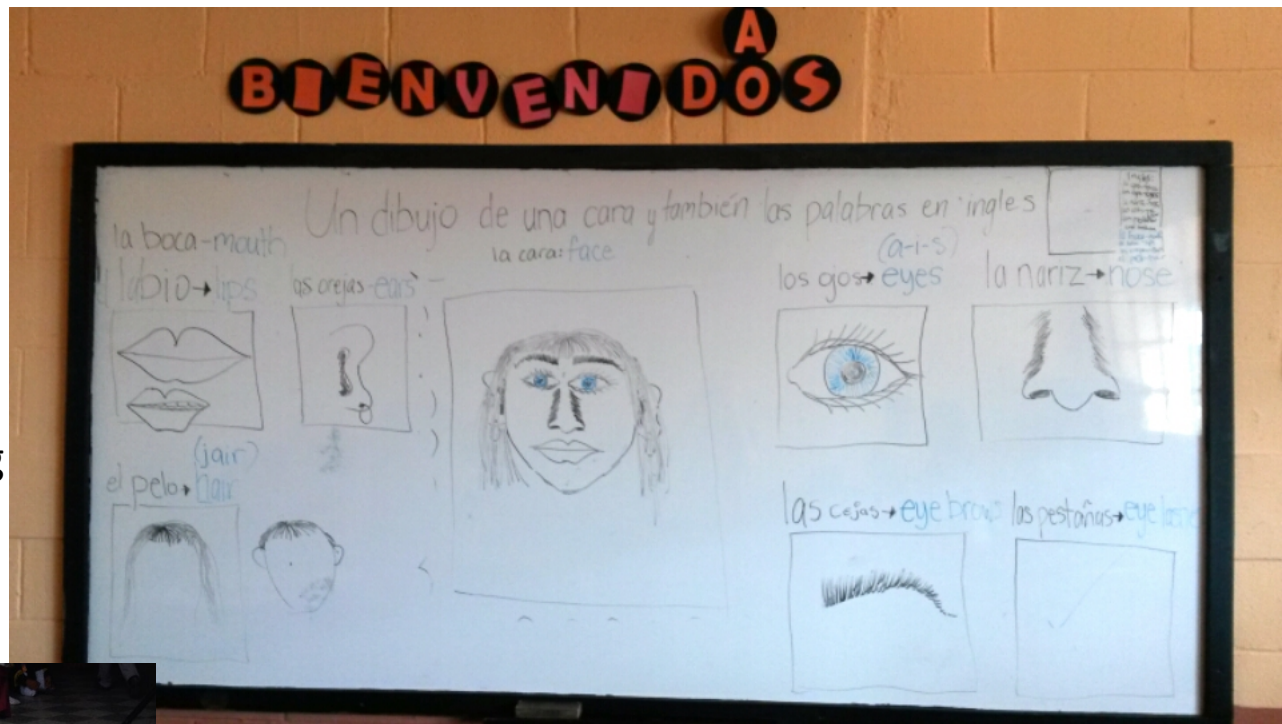
Our Partner: Colegio Miguel Angel Asturias



“The school was definitely the best part! I really enjoyed bonding with my grade 3 class. The teachers were very friendly and so were the kids.”



“The instant acceptance by the students was extremely heart warming to me. Although the students didn’t know me well, they often greeted me with a giant hug as soon as I entered the room and a giant group hug when it was time for me to leave.”





“The school made a really large impression on me during this trip. Having the opportunity to meet all of the students and the staff and seeing how welcoming and open they were with us from day one was a great feeling. When we met Jorge Chojolán, and he told us about his childhood and his vision for the school and for his country, I was drawn in.”



Our cook: Doña Silvia
and her family



“The food was phenomenal. I felt like I ate like a Queen for the week I was there. The individuals serving our food made the experience even better. It was very comfortable to be able to dine at the casa.”





"I enjoyed the food thoroughly and was very appreciative of Doña Silvia's family cautions of my allergies. I liked that so many of the foods were new to us and gave us an opportunity to try traditional food and flavors."



What last year's students say...

“Before I left for this experience, I expected to learn a lot. However, while this was true of my experience, I think one of the most interesting things is *what* I learned. Throughout my schooling, one of the things I learned predominantly was reading from a variety of sources and viewpoints will really enhance your education. I believe that is why prior to this experience I thought I had a spot-on vision of Guatemala in my head. Through the Spanish 3500 class, we explored Guatemala through so many different mediums. However, one of the biggest things I've learned is that nothing is comparable to experience, especially when it comes to learning in a global context. No matter how much reading you do or how many pictures you see, you can never assume you know the full story of a location without experience. And even with experience, you only know as much as you've been exposed to. There were such parallels with what we learned and what I saw, so I will definitely go forward with trying to be increasingly open-minded.”

What last year's students say...

"I cannot believe how much my Spanish improved during this trip. Prior to the trip, I had many problems retelling events or stories because I could not think of the right tenses quick enough to speak or make grammatical sense. By the end, I could retell stories and even make jokes in Spanish fluidly with ease.

The food on the trip was delicious! The family that cooked our meals was extremely kind and accommodating. They treated us like their own family and made us feel welcomed.

I would, without a doubt, recommend this trip to any student who is in the Spanish program in the department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Western University. My CSL trip to Guatemala was definitely one of my most memorable and enjoyable moments of university so far. Traditional textbook work or lecture-based class simply has no comparison to the learning experience that I received. I am so glad that I chose to partake in this course."

What last year's students say...

“Gracias por visitarme.’ This simple phrase is what I remember most about my many experiences in Guatemala.”

Questions?

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You can also read our blog from last May:

<http://uwoguatemala.wordpress.com>

And the virtual exhibit the students did during the semester:

<http://uwo.ca/modlang/guatemala/>



The Student Success Centre
careers leadership experience



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