

SPAN2031 – Field Trip to a Spanish-speaking Country

Category: Disciplinary Elective Course

Year: Second, third or fourth year of study

Medium of Instruction: English (some assignments in Spanish for Majors in Spanish)

Semester: Offered in the second semester

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This field trip is held in a Spanish-speaking country to learn about its history and culture. In its 2020-21 edition, the country in focus is Mexico. Students in the Spanish and American Studies programmes taking SPAN2031 must participate in the field trip to Mexico from June 1 to June 15, 2021. Students will have the opportunity to locate historical sites, learn about major cultural referents and socio-historical processes, and develop their capacity to describe their learning experiences in a mixed-media report combining graphic, audiovisual and written texts. The course starts with a teaching and learning component in preparation for the field trip. In the second part, students will spend two weeks in Mexico, visiting sites, presenting their studies at relevant sites, and attending seminars at a cultural or educational institution. Back in Hong Kong, in the third part, students will produce their report. The course has 2 contact hours per week. Attendance is expected to all classes and non-attendance may affect students' final grade.

1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
Demonstrate strong analytical ability through critical engagement with discourses surrounding artists' social and political commitment.
Relate text-based inquiry involving analysis and interpretation that happens before the field trip to the experience of visiting sites of historical and cultural importance in the host country
Identify, explain and evaluate key themes in the history of the host country's cultural production.
Compare and contrast cultural and social experiences between the host country and the student's own.
Present a report on an aspect of the host's country history and culture in the form of a mixed-media product.

1.2. ASSESSMENT

This course is graded on the basis of continuous assessment and is as follows:

- Participation During Discussions (10%)
- Short Preparatory Assignments (30%)
- Oral Presentations during Site Visits (30%)
- Mixed-media report (30%)

2. COURSE CONTENTS

All materials will be provided by the teacher in class or via the Moodle platform.

The following table shows a breakdown of some of the topics covered in the course:

COURSE TOPICS	
PART 1	INTRODUCTION: Geography, Ethnicity and Social Dynamics How is Mexico's geography? What major ethnic groups live in Mexico? What languages do people speak? Contemporary Mexico: Migration, Democracy
PART 2	PART II: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW Mexico's ancient civilizations (Maya, Aztec) Colonization and Struggle for Independence Social Revolution of 1910
PART 3	PART III: MEXICAN ART Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz The Muralists Frida Kahlo Mexican Cinema