

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
The City University of New York
Department of Latin American & Latina/o Studies
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
445 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019

LLS 227 INDIGENOUS LATIN AMERICA: THE MAYA ZONE
Study Abroad to Quintana Roo, Mexico
Winter 2025

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Classmate Name & Phone #

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of the diverse indigenous populations of Latin America with students interacting closely with Quintana Roo's local Maya population. Through an interdisciplinary study of culture, history, and politics, students will learn topics such as the construction of race, environmental threats, tourism, nationalism, citizenship, and ethnicity. Students will explore the cultural and historical characteristics of the Maya of Quintana Roo as well as learn about specific variations to being Maya across the region. We will discuss the challenges in being "Indian" in Quintana Roo and address how the residents of the Maya Zone confront the problems faced by indigenous communities throughout the world. Learning Yucatec Maya will also be covered as part of the program, as it is spoken throughout the region.

Learning Outcomes

Students in this course will learn to:

- **Analyze culture, globalization, or global cultural diversity, and describe an event or process from more than one point of view.** Students will be required to explore the concepts of "discovery", "modernity", and "race" through various lenses including but not limited to community activists (indigenous and non-indigenous), and Latin American and U.S. scholars. Students will analyze these concepts and their meaning from a local, national, and global perspective.
- **Analyze the historical development of one or more non-U.S. societies.** Students will be required to analyze the historical and cultural development of the Maya of Quintana Roo as an ethnic community.
- **Analyze the significance of one or more major movements that have shaped the world's societies.** Students will be required to discuss and analyze key socio-political events that have shaped the indigenous communities of this region. Such topics to be discussed in class will include the discovery and conquest of Latin America, Yucatan's Caste War, and the passing of NAFTA.

- **Analyze and discuss the role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, belief, or other forms of social differentiation play in world cultures or societies.** Students will be required to explore the concept of “Indian” as a constructed racial category as it relates to a larger project of colonialism and globalization.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE: You are required to attend every class. This is a 4-week course and only a medical emergency should keep you from coming to class; any medical absence needs to be appropriately documented in writing. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class.

*** More than 4 non-medical absences **will** result in an “F” for the course.

Every student is expected to arrive on time. I do not like late arrivals to class. It shows disrespect for your professor, your studies, and your fellow classmates and your hosts. Tardiness is extremely distracting. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so very quietly.

ASSIGNMENTS: I do not accept late assignments. If you do not hand in the assignment on time, please do ***not*** ask for an extension: It’s not fair to the other students in our class. Topics must be drawn from this syllabus and assigned reading materials from this class. All final papers must incorporate and cite relevant reading materials from the assigned readings in this course.

Being prepared for class is necessary for full comprehension of the lectures and engaged participation in class discussions. Participation involves being alert and taking notes during lectures; asking questions to clarify points of misunderstanding; engaging actively in small-group activities; and contributing meaningfully and often to discussions. Keeping up with the readings is the best way to be sure you are ready to participate.

Respect towards the instructor and towards your fellow classmates is necessary. Walking in and out of class, leaving class early, eating in class, talking during the lecture, and other forms of disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please remember to turn your cell phone off in class. Texting, talking, and surfing the web on your cell phone is not allowed. No games please.

All persons, regardless of gender, age, class, race, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. This includes inappropriate comments about the above mentioned in class or in confidence. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with your instructor.

All other required readings are available on our course website.

GRADING is as follows:

- Class attendance (75% of your grade): You are expected to attend all classes and excursions while abroad.
- E-Portfolio and Blog (25% of your grade): Students will develop an e-portfolio that will document their experience abroad. E-Portfolios are expected to be creative in design. The professor will go over with students all E-portfolio assignments.

A = 94 – 100	A- = 90 – 93	B+ = 87 – 89
B = 84 – 86	B- = 80 – 83	C+ = 77 – 79
C = 74 – 76	C- = 70 – 73	D+ = 65 – 69

D = 60 – 64

F = below 60

Readings

Please do all the assigned readings for each class meeting. Read the assignments before class so that you are prepared to carry on an intelligent discussion of the material in class. Lectures will complement the readings and assume the base level of knowledge which they present, so it is critically important that you keep up with the readings.

Class Schedule and Study Abroad Itinerary

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus and the course calendar are a guide for the course and are subject to changes.

Study Abroad Itinerary - John Jay College, CUNY

January 2nd-23rd 2025

Thursday January 2nd

3pm: Arrival (**If you arrive after 3pm you will be responsible for your own travel to Felipe Carrillo Puerto**)

3.30pm: Private van from airport to Felipe Carrillo Puerto

Approx. 8pm: Drop off individually at homestays

Friday January 3rd

9:30am-11am: Orientation (Introduction and volunteer teaching signups)

11am: Snack break

12:00pm-1:15pm: Intro session (review syllabus-E-Journal)

1:30pm: Lunch with homestays

5pm: Meet at Na'atik. Walking tour of Felipe Carrillo Puerto

7pm: Welcome Dinner

Saturday January 4th

11am-1pm: Meet and greet with local Na'atik students.

1:30pm: Lunch with homestays

Afternoon free (see options of things to do)

6:30pm: "Potluck" event with homestay families and all students

Sunday January 5th

9:30am-12:00pm: Class (History of the Talking Cross)

1:30pm-4pm: Lunch at homestay

4pm: Meet at Na'atik to go to the Church of the Talking Crosses (Donations excepted by church)

5pm: Tour of La Casa de la Cultura in Parque Central.

6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do- Carnival)

Monday January 6th

9:30am: Maya language class at Na'atik

Afternoon and evening free with homestay families (celebration of *Los Tres Reyes*)

Tuesday January 7th

9:30-12:00pm: Class (Lecture on the Caste War)

12:30pm: Lunch with homestays

2pm: Pick up from Na'atik and travel to museum in Tihuosuco (Drinks/Snacks \$\$)

6:30pm: Return to Carrillo. Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Wednesday January 8th

9:30am-12pm: Maya language class at Na'atik

1pm: Return to Carrillo. Lunch with homestay

3:30 – 6:00pm: Meet at Na'atik to go to Maya community

6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Thursday January 9th

9:30: Meet at Na'atik. Visit Muyil Ruins and canal float (Souvenirs \$\$)
1pm: Return to Carrillo for lunch with homestay families.
6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Friday January 10th

9:30-12.00pm: Maya language class at Na'atik
1pm-3pm: Lunch with homestay families
6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do) Is Kantemo a possibility?

Saturday January 11th

8am: Meet at Na'atik. Visit Tulum Ruins, Tulum town, and beach. (Lunch & Souvenirs \$\$.)

Sunday January 12th

Morning free/Breakfast and lunch with homestay family
3pm: Balam Nah lagoon (homestay families welcome)
6:30pm: Return to Carrillo. Dinner with homestay families. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Monday January 13th

9:00am: Meet at Na'atik
9:30am-12.30pm: Maya Class (can be shown how to dig hole and make marinade for traditional chicken *en pib* cuisine)
12.30pm: Cooking class for lunch in community (make tortillas, salsa for traditional *pib* and juice) (Souvenirs \$\$)
5pm: Return to Carrillo. Dinner with homestay.

Tuesday January 14th

9:30am-12pm: Class at Na'atik (E-Portfolio/blog)
12:30 pm: Lunch with homestay families.
6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Wednesday January 15th

8am: Meet at Na'atik with snacks.
9:00 - 11am: Ruins at Chacchoben (Souvenirs \$\$)
12pm: 2pm: Bacalar Lagoon and boat tour
2pm: Lunch on dock by lagoon
3pm: Drop off near fort. Hour free time (opportunity to explore fort)
4:30pm: Van to Carrillo.
6:30pm: Return to Carrillo. Dinner with homestay families. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Thursday January 16th

9:30-12:00pm: Class at Na'atik (E-Portfolio/blog)
1pm: Lunch with homestay
4.30pm: Meet at Na'atik for trip to Raxalaj Mayab
6:30pm: Return to Carrillo. Dinner with homestay families. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Friday January 17th

9:30am – 12pm: Class at Na'atik (E-Portfolio/blog)
Lunch with homestays
4pm Chicle tour
6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Saturday January 18th

9am: Meet at Na'atik for English classes for intercultural workshop.

12pm: snacks for all students

12:30pm: Feedback and graduation

6:30pm: Dinner with homestay. Evening Free (see options of things to do)

Monday January 20th (Sunday January 19th Free Day)

8am: Pick up from homestays. Head to airport.

(\$\$)- To be paid for by Student

Option of things to do during free time:

- Volunteer in Na’atik English classes
- Get massages \$\$
- Swimming at local pools \$\$
- Zumba class \$\$ or go to a court or field for a pick-up game
- Drop off/pick-up laundry \$\$
- Shopping \$\$
- Work on Assignments
- Attending evening activities in the park and around town
- Visit Expo Maya (evenings only)
- Visit the Casa de Cultura (afternoons and evenings only)

College wide policies for undergraduate courses (see the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, Chapter IV Academic Standards)

- A. **Incomplete Grade Policy**
- B. **Extra Work During the Semester**
- C. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies**

“Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student’s eligibility from the OAS which is located at L66.00 in the new building (212-237-8031). It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.”

Source: *Reasonable Accommodations: A Faculty Guide to Teaching College Students with Disabilities*, 4th ed., City University of New York, p.3.
(http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable_Accommodations.pdf)

Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student’s responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotations are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (*John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin*, <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php>, see Chapter IV Academic Standards)

Resources & Academic Support

Center for English Language Support (CELS):Rm. L. 1201 NH/ Phone (212) 237-8231
Writing Center: Rm. L01.68 NB/ Phone (212) 237-8569
Computer Labs: Rm. L2.72.00/ Phone (212) 237-8047

Student-Faculty Agreement

Program Name: **Felipe Carrillo Puerto Quintana Roo, Mexico**

I understand that students in this study abroad program must display proper respect and sensitivity to the host culture as well as to student and faculty members of the program.

I understand that personality conflicts can undermine the atmosphere of a study abroad program. Therefore, I agree to display respectful behavior to all members of our group.

I understand that discourteous or uncooperative behavior, cultural insensitivity, conduct that is disrespectful to other individuals, and behavior or conduct that is disruptive and detrimental to the academic success of the program may result in dismissal from the program.

I understand that as a John Jay College student participating in a study abroad program, I am expected to abide by the policies spelled out in *Policies, Rules and Regulations*.

I understand that decisions regarding dismissal and inappropriate behavior are the sole discretion of John Jay College and its representatives.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about this policy, understand its terms, and agree to the terms stated.

By signing below, I indicate that I understand that:

1. This requirement is meant to benefit the group and that my behavior is a disruption to the successful functioning of this academic program.
2. My actions impact the group and that I must keep the group's interests in mind when making decisions about my behavior.
3. If an infraction of this program's rules occurs, I will be sent home at my expense in accordance with John Jay College policy.

Print name _____

Sign name _____

Date _____