

Power in Movement: Social Justice Activism In and Between New Orleans and Mexico City

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Term: J-term 2022 in Mexico City

2022 Course Description and Goals

This course is an illuminating study of how social justice movements manifest and progress through the lens of New Orleans and Mexico City, and provides a comparative perspective of cultural and economic happenings as catalysts for achieving power and recognition through social and physical movements. Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation of the historic and contemporary relationships between the two cities and their respective cultures, business concerns, political landscapes and to understand how activism has evolved over time.

Course Outcomes:

1. Increased ability to operate on an international level
2. Better understanding and appreciation of Spanish language
3. Increase in cultural competency
4. Better understanding of social justice movements including economic empowerment on a global scale

Required Texts:

Students will be required to read current articles or watch videos based on the lectures or activities of each respective day. Articles and videos should be read/viewed before lecture or activity. All articles and videos will be made available as links on Canvas by the end of the Fall 2021 semester.

Note: Students will prepare for the trip by conducting individual research on key aspects of the country's history, culture, business practices, economy, and activism. This course will require critical thinking, demonstrated ability to present factual information and write meaningful reflections.

Grade Breakdown:

Daily Reflection Posts: 50%

- Students will be asked to write daily reflection pieces based on main lectures, guest lectures, activities, assigned readings/videos or excursions for that day. Reflection posts should give a fuller picture how you experienced the day, new knowledge attained, feelings, expectations, etc. They should be between 400-500 words. Note: The purpose of the reflection is to provide you an incentive and a forum for reflecting on your experiences as they happen. It is not intended to be merely a “what I did today” account. Therefore, reflection posts will be

graded for the quality of your lessons learned from lectures/meetings, your observations and the degree and quality of self-examination/reflection that it documents.

Social Justice Analytical Paper: 30%

- Students will be asked to write a 3-page analytical paper comparing some aspect of New Orleans/United States to Mexico City/Mexico through the lens of any topic covered including social justice, education, migration, gender equity, environmental justice, history, indigenous affairs, etc. This paper will be due by the end of the J-term.

Class participation/Attendance: 20%

- Punctuality, respectfulness (of everyone, but especially of the native population and customs) is required. Students are expected to be inquisitive, attentive, and participatory during all lectures, workshops, outreach activities, and excursions including those on the weekend. Students should show use of their research regarding history, culture, business practices, economics, politics and news to ask questions, exchange information and explain their points of view to our hosts and other students. Furthermore, students are expected to engage fully in all group assignments, and any discussions that may be posted.

Grading Scale:

93-100: A

90-92: A-

88-90: B+

83-87: B

80-82: B

78-79: C+

73-77: C

70-72: C

68-69: D+

66-67: D

< 65: F

Itinerary & Program of Study:

January 3rd, 2022

- IBERO Campus Tour
- Main lecture: Introduction to Social Justice Movements
- Guest lecture: Migration
- Spanish language workshop
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 4th, 2022

- NGO Visit: Migrant shelter
- Main lecture: Looking at migration issues between US and Mexico
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 5th, 2022

- Main lecture: Understanding LGBTQ+ issues in Mexico City/Mexico
- Guest lecture: Gender Equity
- Mexican Cooking Workshop
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 6th, 2022

- Main lecture: Understanding Mexican politics and the formation of centers of power
- Volunteer/outreach opportunity
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 7th, 2022

- Visit to Teotihuacan archaeological site.
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 8th, 2022

- Free time
- Optional: participation in city center scavenger hunt with IBERO students

January 9th, 2022

- Guided visit to National Palace, Cathedral, Templo Mayor archaeological site, and Anthropology Museum

January 10th, 2022

- Main lecture: Environmental equity for marginalized communities
- Guest lecture: Environmental justice
- Mexican dance lesson
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 11th, 2022

- NGO visit: Community center
- Main lecture: Community organizing
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 12th, 2022

- Visit to Mexican National University and Coyoacan neighborhood
- Assignment: Daily reflection post due 8am next day

January 13th, 2022

- Main lecture: Current topics in US Indigenous Affairs
- Guest lecture: Indigenous Affairs in Mexico
- Assignment: Work on social justice analytical paper

January 14th, 2022

- Main lecture: Concluding lecture and discussion
- Assignment: Social justice analytical paper due 8am next day

January 15th, 2022

- Depart for New Orleans

Prior to Travel:

The course reading list and any relevant postings will be ready for students by the end of the fall semester so you can begin preparing for the course. Also prior to travel, online Spanish language tutorials will be offered.

Academic Misconduct:

The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors.

Bias:

A bias incident is an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or violence committed against any person, group or property that appears to be intentional and motivated by prejudice or bias. Such acts are usually associated with negative feelings and beliefs with respect to others' race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability status, marital status, citizenship status, and other identity characteristics. If you witness or experience such acts, please inform us so that we can respond appropriately and in keeping with the law. Please report any incidents of bias to:

https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?LoyolaUnivNO&layout_id=7

Note:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change based on current issues and happenings. Advance notice will be given to students if syllabus is changed.