

MEXICAN FIELD STUDIES

Missions 1231 / Sociology 1231

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This college-level course is aimed at high school seniors. It builds on an SNU-organized Work and Witness trip to Mexico (“Commission Unto Mexico”) to provide a supervised cross-cultural educational experience. Enrollment must be completed through the SNU Admissions Office (Southern Nazarene University, 6729 NW 39th, Bethany, OK 73008) prior to the trip. (For more information on the trip, go to: www.snu.edu/mexico)

Course objectives / goals

1. Expose students to actual field research, working with phenomena that are best observed within the context of their environment.
2. To give students practical hands-on cross-cultural experience in Mexico
3. To bring together knowledge acquired earlier and apply it in an actual cross-cultural situation.
4. To have students express themselves clearly, logically, and concisely both orally and in writing.

Requirements — 1 Hour Credit

Much of the course credit is derived from working, living and interacting in the week-long cross-cultural environment that the trip provides. In addition, there are three written assignments:

5. Read the August 1996 issue of *National Geographic*. It is all on Mexico. Write a minimum two-page report (summary/reaction) on your reading.
6. While in Mexico, keep a daily impressions journal. This is not to be a simple diary, but an introspective review. Write down each day what you saw or experienced that confirmed or deviated from reading you did before the trip. Your observations should note what you learned each day in cross-cultural living, including what you learned about yourself. There should be some notes about cultural contrasts. This journal, in final form, should be turned in within 3 weeks after the trip along with the post-trip reflection paper mentioned below.
7. Write a 2-3 page post-trip paper to reflect back on your reading before you went to Mexico, comparing what you had read with what you actually experienced.

T Students seeking sociology credit should highlight in their journal insights relevant to that field.

T The journals of students seeking missions credit should highlight insights about religious experience in the Mexican context.

Grades: Grades for the course will be assigned on the basis of participation in the trip, timeliness of completion of written work, and the quality and insightfulness of the written work