

Mérida, Yucatán Study Trip

January 4-January 16, 2010

What, Where, and When

- The Honors Program, in cooperation with the Latin American and Latino Studies Concentration Committee and the Departments of Biology, Classical and Modern Languages, Communication and Theatre Arts, Economics, History, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology, is offering a multidisciplinary study trip to the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico in January 2010.
- We will leave Cleveland via Continental Airlines through Houston on the afternoon of Monday, January 4 and return on Saturday afternoon, January 16. Our base will be Mérida, the capital of the state of Yucatán.

Why the Yucatán? Why Mérida?

- The Yucatán presents an extraordinary confluence and intersection of cultures and environment: Mayan, Mexican, European, Caribbean and Cuban cultures all resonate in the villages and cities of the peninsula today. The Yucatecan Maya were among the most successful of indigenous resisters to colonization—as late as the nineteenth century, many Maya maintained considerable autonomy from Spanish and Mexican rule. At the same time, others were subject to the most brutal and onerous forms of hacienda servitude. Today, traditional ways merge with restored convents and haciendas, eco-tourism, and the 'globalized' tourist economy of Cancun and the Riviera Maya.
- Extraordinarily rich historical and cultural resources are easily accessible from Mérida, including one of the “new” Seven Wonders of the World, Chichén Itza. At the height of the henequen boom in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mérida was among the richest cities in the world. Because of that, the city of Mérida itself has much to offer: in addition to year-round cultural activities (especially noteworthy for music and dance), in January the city hosts an international cultural festival. The city also has an excellent archeological museum, a new city museum, and the MACAY, the Yucatán Museum of Contemporary Art Ateneo, as well as numerous smaller museums and galleries. Mérida and the Yucatán's rich historical traditions and lively contemporary culture will offer students an opportunity to engage contemporary Latin American culture. It's also often noted as Mexico's safest city, one where you will find it a pleasure to walk around.

Our Plans

- We will stay at the Nomadas Hostel, in the historic center of the city. Students will be lodged in dormitory facilities, with private lockers. The Nomadas provides breakfast and access to a kitchen.
- In Mérida we will be oriented to the city through a tour of the central plaza area, visits to the city museum, the archeological museum, the MACAY (art museum), and “city-as-text” excursions. We have arranged for special conferences to be held with faculty from the largest university in the city, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY). Topics will include the ecology and environment of the peninsula, Mayan archeology, the history of the Yucatan since the arrival of Europeans, and contemporary society. We will also take advantage of the numerous cultural activities (music, dance, theater) available in

the evenings, and will arrange a village visit and cooking class to learn about Yucatecan food and the cultural fusions it represents.

- Several excursions outside the city are also planned. We will visit two major Mayan archeological sites, Chichén Itza and Uxmal, and the smaller colonial cities of Izamal and Valladolid. While we will avoid the Cancun scene, we will visit an extraordinary colony of flamingos in a nature reserve in Celustun (and its beach), as well as the nearby port of Progreso—which also has a beach! We also plan to visit cenotes (sinkholes suitable for swimming), restored haciendas, and a biocultural reserve, Kaxil Kiuic.

Academic Components

- Academic credit is available to students through 3-credit courses to be offered through each of the sponsoring departments, and it has been approved for international-R credit and for Honors credit. Students will register for the course on the Spring 2010 schedule in the department of their choice.
- Before the trip, students will read and discuss preliminary material chosen by the participating faculty to introduce and key themes, including *Yucatán in an Era of Globalization* (University of Alabama Press, 2008). Two required meetings will be held in the last half of the fall semester. One will focus on trip logistics, and one will discuss the preliminary readings and themes.
- After returning, students and faculty will meet at least three times and complete an independent project. The first meeting will be a 'debriefing' and discussion of independent projects. Faculty in each of the disciplines will advise the projects. Projects will be presented to the entire group at the final two meetings (more may be scheduled if necessary). All projects and presentations should be completed by mid-term. Specific requirements for the independent project required of students will be set by faculty in each of the departments. Registration will be by permission only, and may be limited to 2 students per department.

Costs

- Tuition costs will be covered by registration for the spring semester. Full time students will incur no additional tuition costs (subject to the 18-hour limit).
- The travel fee is \$1950. This will include airfare, all required ground transportation on site, and transportation from the Cleveland airport to John Carroll when we return. It will also include lodging fees, all required site fees, and several group meals. Lodging includes a continental breakfast each day. Students will need to plan to pay for food and incidentals. There are a large variety of restaurants in Mérida, and the hostel also has kitchen facilities available. \$20 per day will cover these expenses easily (about \$250 for the entire trip).

Application

- Please print and complete the **attached application** along with **an essay of 250-500 words** addressing why you wish to participate in the trip, what you hope to gain from it, and potential areas of independent research on your return, and **a deposit check of \$150 (payable to John Carroll University) to the Center for Global Education**
- Applications, with a deposit of \$150, payable to John Carroll University, are due by Monday, September 21, 2009. A payment of \$800 will be due Friday, October 2, and the final payment (\$100) will be due by Friday, December 4, 2009.

Mérida, Yucatán Study Trip



Application for JCU Yucatan Study Trip (January 4-16, 2010)

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Email: _____

Banner I.D.: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Campus Mailbox: _____ Campus Extension: _____ Cell number: _____

Permanent Address: _____

_____ City State Zip

Academic Information

Current Class Standing: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior

Major or Prospective Major (s): _____

Minor or Prospective Minor (s): _____

Major GPA: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Which department do you intend to register in (BL/CO/EC/HS/HP/IC/PO/RL/SC) : _____

Related courses completed by May 2009 (none required, informational only): _____

Please have a copy of your transcript sent to the Center for Global Education (AD 126)

Emergency Contact and Passport Information

Do you have a valid passport? __ Yes __ No. Expiration Date _____
(If you do, please attach a color copy of the face page to this application)

Emergency Contact: _____
Name Relationship to the student

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone number: _____

Statement of Purpose

Write a brief statement (2 typed pages max.) describing why you would like to participate in this program. In particular, please discuss what you hope to gain from participating in this program and how it fits into your overall program of study at John Carroll University. Attach this statement to the application.

Disciplinary Standing *(to be completed by the Dean of Students)*

Please list any infractions incurred by the applicant throughout his/her academic career. Please list any additional information or explanation you feel should be taken into consideration.

Dean of Students

Signature

Date

Release of Information

The information about you and the collection, retention and dissemination of your records are subject to federal regulation under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). It is therefore necessary for John Carroll University's Center for Global Education to obtain your permission to release information collected on this application and in your transcripts. We need your agreement to the following:

- I hereby release information contained in my application and transcripts to John Carroll University's Center for Global Education for review and approval for my study abroad application.
- I hereby release information contained in my application and transcripts to the overseas school where I wish to be placed.

Student Signature

Date

Printed Name

Banner I.D. Number

Disclaimer

I have read and understand my responsibilities pertaining to study abroad at John Carroll University. I understand that I will have to apply to go abroad through a separate application form provided by the program that I have chosen. I am also aware that I will be required to purchase the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) at the Center for Global Education, AD. 126, if one is not provided by my chosen study abroad program. I understand that the purpose of this application is to ensure I stay within John Carroll University guidelines for study abroad and by signing this form I have complied with all rules and regulations.

Student (Please Print)

Signature

Date