

SPANISH IN MEXICO, 2008

The following assignments will be part of your graded work for the program and are to be submitted to the director and the MLC website by the dates indicated.

I. Pre-departure assignments: Parts a and b are due by Friday, May 23 at the latest.
Send by email attachment to:

bkbl@mail.rochester.edu

AND MLC@mail.rochester.edu

a) Essay. 1-1.5 pages to be written in either English or Spanish (at this level it is your choice) for those students enrolled in SP157, and in Spanish for those enrolled in SP 207.

Address the following topics in your essay: Comment on your experience to date with Hispanic cultures and with the Spanish language, and then what you might expect to add to this knowledge by studying in Mexico. Your expectations will be revisited after your actual learning experience in Oaxaca.

b) Monte Albán

One of your early excursions will be to the archaeological site of Monte Albán. Prior to departing for Oaxaca, visit two or three websites that present information on Monte Albán. In a brief write up (half a page or so), identify at least two points of consensus and two differences in the information or interpretation of Monte Albán offered on the websites. All students will visit the following website. Then each will choose one or two others for their comparison/contrast:

www.advantagemexico.com/oaxaca/monte_alban.html

II. The city of Oaxaca has a wealth of cultural institutions to visit while you are there. It is strongly recommended that you check out as many of these important Oaxaca highlights as possible. Some of these will be incorporated into group excursions, others can be visited with your *intercambio*.

1) City Museum (La Casa de la Ciudad)

Porfirio Díaz #115 and Morelos; Open daily from 9am-8pm; Free

- Highlights include Oaxaca maps (one of which is the Foto Piso, a giant photo you walk across courtesy of Universum), changing exhibitions and a library. Look for the yellow building across from the Carmen Abajo Church.

2) Rufino Tamayo Museum of Prehispanic Art (Museo de Arte Prehispanico Rufino Tamayo)
Morales #503, 516-4750; 30 pesos; Open Wednesday to Saturday from 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 7pm; Sundays open from 10am to 3pm, closed Tuesdays

- Features indigenous art collected by one of Mexico's most famous artists, Rufino Tamayo. There are tours in English on Wednesdays and Fridays at 5pm.

3) Santo Domingo Cultural Center

Alcalá, 516-2991; 35 pesos and free on Sundays and holidays; Video Permit 30 pesos; Open from 10am to 8pm; closed Mondays

- Located in restored former convent and located next to the Santo Domingo Church, the museum guides visitors to Oaxaca's history. Concerts are performed in the cloister. Tip - for in-depth explanations, hire a guide or rent an audio guide in Spanish 40 pesos, English 50 pesos.

4) Museum of Contemporary Oaxacan Art (MACO)

Alcala #202, 514-2818; 10 pesos and free on Sundays and holidays; Open from 10:30am to 8pm; closed Tuesdays

- Features contemporary art in a 17th century house. If there is an opening night, join the festivities! Website

5) Alvarez Bravo Photographic Center (CFAB)

M. Bravo #116 and Garcia Vigil, 516-4523; Free; Open from 9:30am to 8pm; closed Tuesdays

- Photography exhibits and classes. Website

6) Casa Juárez Museum

Garcia Vigil #504, 516-1860; 30 pesos and free on Sundays and holidays; Open from 10am to 7pm, closed Mondays

- Oaxacan home of Mexican President Benito Juárez

7) Casa de la Cultura Oaxaqueña

González Ortega #403

- Located next to the Siete Principes Church, this cultural center is a local landmark and hosts numerous presentations and events.

8) Oaxacan Graphic Arts Institute (IAGO)

Alcalá #507; 516-6980; Free

- Founded by Oaxacan artist Francisco Toledo, the institute boasts a 65,000 volume collection.

9) Oaxacan Painters' Museum (Museo de Pintores Oaxaqueños, MUPO)

Independencia #607 (across from the Plaza Alameda de Leon); Entrance 20 pesos

- This museum features contemporary Oaxacan artists.

Just open:

10) Museo Textil de Oaxaca

Ex Convento de San Pablo, Hidalgo #917, corner of Fiallo

- The opening date is scheduled for April 19-20, 2008

III. Upon your return

Revisit your pre-departure essay and reflect on changes in your cultural perspective and knowledge. For example, you may find specific language skills improved or ideas about cultural stereotypes altered. Think about the cultural differences you have observed and see how your expectations were met or exceeded by your stay. Submit your written remarks by email to the same email addresses listed above by the end of July 2008.