

THE 23rd YUCATEC MAYA SUMMER INSTITUTE

Sponsored by the Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University

Beginning-Intermediate-Advanced Courses

June 15-July 24, 2015

Yucatec Maya is a modern language spoken by people living in the Yucatán Peninsula and northern Belize.



FIELD STUDY

The Maya Summer Institute offers an intensive language learning environment that provides a solid foundation in Yucatec Maya combined with an experiential program. From beginning to advanced classes, students participate in meaningful engagement with Yucatec Maya communities through a combination of classroom and field activities. Class trips to archeological and colonial sites as well as cultural centers and other Mayan villages are led by Mayan scholars. Students will have the opportunity to travel throughout the region to:

Mérida, the beautiful capital of the state of Yucatán that offers both modern and historic aspects of city life.

Izamal, a small city and important site of pre-Columbian and colonial times

Valladolid, the perfect city to explore the history and culture of the Yucatan peninsula.

Xocen, the ancient town that played a key role in the Caste War and was the original home of the Talking Cross. There will also be visits to neighboring villages and opportunities to visit the archeological sites of **Ek Balam**, **Chichen Itzá**, **Cobá** and several *cenotes* in the area. In many of the communities the majority of the villagers only speak Maya, offering students an excellent environment in which to practice and enrich their language skills.

LEVEL I, 6 credit hours, 160 contact hours

Weeks 1-2 –Chapel Hill

At UNC, the course is taught by **Dr. David Mora Marín** from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and **Gerónimo Can Tec**, native speaker instructor and graduate of the Maya Culture and Linguistics program at the Universidad de Oriente. Incorporated into the program at UNC are films, special lectures and a workshop on Mayan hieroglyphics.

Weeks 3-6 – Valladolid and Xocen

During the next four weeks, Level I students work in Mexico. They continue intensive language instruction with **Gerónimo Can Tec**, participate in fieldtrips and lectures led by local scholars. Students work in small groups with a Maya university student for additional practice sessions and opportunities to speak Maya in both casual and classroom settings. Students work in the village of Xocen several times a week where they join in the daily activities of Mayan families while they visit their homes, share meals, and interact with families. While in Xocen, Level I students will carry out a field study project to share with classmates at the end of the program.

LEVEL II, 6 credit hours, 160 contact hours

Weeks 1-2 – Merida

This course begins with two weeks of intensive language instruction in Mérida, Mexico taught by Mayan native speaker and linguist **Fidencio Briceño Chel**, one of the best known and respected linguists of the region. The course will incorporate Mayan texts and literature appropriate to this level.

Weeks 3-6 –Valladolid and Xocen

During the next four weeks, Level II students work in Valladolid, Mexico. They continue intensive classroom instruction, attend lectures by Mayan scholars and work on a class project. **Dr. Grant Armstrong** from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and **Marcelina Chan Canché**, native speaker instructor and graduate of the Maya Culture and Linguistics program at the Universidad de Oriente, will co-teach the final weeks in collaboration with **Fidencio Briceño Chel**. Students work in small groups with a Maya university student for additional practice sessions and opportunities to speak Maya in both casual and classroom settings. They also conduct projects in the village of Xocen and participate in fieldtrips to neighboring villages. Students will be constantly exposed to native speakers and will be invited to participate in diverse programs (e.g., workshops, radio programs and conferences) during their stay in Merida and Valladolid.

LEVEL III, 6 credit hours, 160 contact hours

Weeks 1-6, Various sites

Level III prepares students to carry out fieldwork and to achieve fluency in the target language. The course is co-taught by Mayan native speakers and linguists including **Fidencio Briceño Chel**. For the first two weeks, students study in Merida. During weeks 3-5, students choose a field site and work on a project designed to develop their language skills. The final week will be spent in Valladolid in a formal language review and presentation of the final project. Students will be evaluated on their projects as well as their Yucatec Maya writing, reading and comprehension skills. Students will be constantly exposed to native speakers and will be invited to participate in diverse programs (e.g., workshops, radio programs and conferences) during their stay in Merida and Valladolid.

NOTE: Basic knowledge of Spanish is required for logistical coordination and day-to-day living in Mexico. This is a rigorous course held in an intense climate (averaging around 100 °F a day). Students should be flexible and be able to cope with heat.

COSTS

Approximately \$6000 covers tuition and fees, accommodations in Mexico, scheduled meals, educational site visits and museum fees, and transportation for all excursions. It does not include airfare(s), passport fees, some meals, housing in Chapel Hill for those in the beginning level course, laundry service or personal expenses. **Excellent funding opportunities available for eligible students. See Funding Opportunities below.**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships are available for U.S. citizens and permanent residents at several U.S. universities through their local Latin American Studies center or you may apply to UNC/Duke Latin American Studies programs for consideration. Partial funding and/or tuition waivers available to students not eligible for FLAS. **For more information contact: riefkohl@email.unc.edu. Funding applications are considered separately from program admission deadlines listed below. Check early as FLAS and other grant deadlines may be set for January or February.**

APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT

Total combined enrollment for all three levels is limited to 20 students. Students are encouraged to apply early. Applications are invited from anyone who wishes to study Yucatec Maya. Application deadline for program admission is March 15. **FOR APPLICATIONS CONTACT:** *The Study Abroad Office, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, FedEx Global Education Center CB# 3130 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3130, 919-962-7002, 919-962-2262 (fax) <http://studyabroad.unc.edu/programs.cfm?pk=1883>*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit <http://isa.unc.edu> or contact Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz at: The Yucatec Maya Summer Institute, FedEx Global Education Center CB#3205, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3205, (919) 962-2418 or email: riefkohl@email.unc.edu

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