

Yucatec Maya Summer Institute (Virtual)

June 22 – July 31, 2020

UNC-Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Program Summary

The Yucatec Maya Summer Institute is a 6-week intensive language program organized by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University in collaboration with the UNC Study Abroad Office and leading Yucatec Maya scholars since 1992. Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the program has moved to an online platform and has been approved as an intensive distance learning program. The Yucatec Maya Summer Institute Virtual will continue training students in the less-commonly-taught modern language spoken by 800,000-1.2 million people in Mexico and Belize.

The Institute offers courses in three levels: beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels. Students enroll in a 6-credit course at the beginning and intermediate levels (LTAM 411, 512) or two 3-credit sections (LTAM 690). All classes combine a focus on grammar and vocabulary that offers the equivalent of one year (two semesters) of language instruction over a minimum of 140 hours during the summer.

Classes are taught through a collaboration between UNC faculty David Mora Marín (UNC Linguistics) and native-speaking Yucatec Maya instructors led by Fidencio Briceño Chel, a leading scholar of Yucatec Maya language and culture based at the Centro Estatal de Capacitación, Investigación y Difusión Humanística de Yucatán. Classes combine language immersion activities, lectures, demonstrations, interactive activities, guest speakers and virtual excursions. Each class enrolls 10 students maximum. Faculty are assisted by teaching assistants. The TAs will provide in-class support and guided practice to smaller groups of students (2-3 students). Throughout the course students learn about the history of the Yucatec Maya people, Maya societies, traditions, practices and beliefs, contemporary expressions of cultural heritage and language revitalization, economic, social and political struggles and migration to the United States (California, Florida, Illinois, and Texas, in particular).

Guest lectures may be delivered in Yucatec Maya, Spanish or English. Classroom and homework assignments include film screenings will provide students with further exposure to the language.

Instruction will be delivered mainly through Zoom.

Assessment:

Progress is assessed (and shared with the student) every week through evaluation of weekly written assignments, participation, quizzes, final projects, and exams. Students pick a final project topic to present as a written and oral report in Yucatec Maya. The topics may include Maya language, culture, history or current events. Often students pick topics that are relevant to their own academic and research interests.

Sample Schedule:

- Orientation: June 15 (will include review of remote technology, protocols, and best practices, distribution of syllabus and pre-course assignments), 2 hours.
- Instructors will be available for office hours by appointment.

Daily Class Schedule beginning June 22-July 31, 2020

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 4.5 hours of instruction and Thursday: 5 hours of instruction (additional time allotted for breaks)

All instruction will start at 10am EST.

A sample schedule may look like this:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:

Class 1

Break

Class 2

Break

Practice/Discussion

Break

Daily progress recap, quizzes, exercises.

Tuesday and Thursday:

Class 1

Break

Class 2

Break

Practice/Discussion

Break

Virtual tours, guest speakers, etc.

Break

Daily Progress Recap

Program Cost: \$3,100 to pay for tuition and summer enrollment fees.

More Information

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