

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

BLOCK COURSE - Geog 597.41

METROPOLITAN ISSUES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Case study: Mexico City

Professor: Carlos De Leo

January 5 – 10, 2009

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Introduce the student to the urban, social, economic and environmental problems and issues of a metropolitan city in a developing nation.

This experience will help grasp first hand the problems and solutions that at times differ greatly from those of “first world countries”, increasing the student’s awareness of the differences and similarities that exist among cultures, countries and cities and the factors involved in provoking these situations.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

THE COURSE IS DIVIDED INTO 10 THEMES

Theme 1: History of urban growth in Mexico City.

Theme 2: Urban transportation in Mexico City

Theme 3: Major housing issues

Theme 4: the impact of “informal economy” on the city.

Theme 5: Urban sprawl, the city absorbs neighboring towns and settlements

Theme 6: Social and economic contrasts

Theme 7: Importing contemporary urban models

Theme 8: Conurbation in Mexico City: metropolitan and governance issues

Theme 9: “Rural” Mexico City

Theme 10: Urban agriculture

These themes will be presented by on-site visits complemented with lectures and assigned readings.

The student will be required to participate daily in the activities, including:

- Lectures
- Site visits

- Charrette
- Present the quiz on the assigned readings
- Present a Journal on the week's activities, with thoughts, impressions, analysis and sketches

EVALUATION

The student will be evaluated on the following:

QUIZ on required readings	10%
CHARRETTE	40%
JOURNAL	40%
<u>CLASS PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

ITINERARY

Subject to last minute changes

Monday, JANUARY 5

Theme 1: History of urban growth in Mexico City.

Theme 2: Urban transportation in Mexico City

8 am Kick/off meeting at the CASA DE LOS AMIGOS hostel in México City

8:30 Quiz on assigned reading

9:00 Presentation of Mexico City's problems by Prof. De Leo

Introduction to the day's activities

10 am Reconnaissance tour of Mexico City, explaining the important issues, in general.

- *Historic city center*
- *Reforma Blvd*
 - *The shift from downtown to the "spine" of upper and middle class urban growth that was provoked by Reforma.*
- *Chapultepec park*
- *Las Lomas*
- *Pedregal*
- *Coyoacan*
 - *2 walking tours*
- *lunch in Coyoacan Market*
- *University city*
 - *walking tour*

6 pm Return to the Casa de los Amigos

Update journals

Comments on day's activities

Tuesday, JANUARY 6

Theme 3: Major housing issues?

Theme 4: the impact of "informal economy" on the city.

8 am Introduction to the day's activities.

10 am Visit to the Northern part of Mexico City

- *Tour of the Delegation Gustavo A. Madero*
- *housing, irregular settlements*
- *ecological issues*
- *Visit to the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe*
- *Walking tour*
- *Informal economy*

1 pm Walking tour of the Historic Center

- Experience the Philip II grid layout and public spaces (walking tour)
- Lunch in some traditional restaurant
- Walking through the Alameda Park and part of Reforma Blvd.

6 pm Return to Casa de los Amigos by subway.

Update journals

Comments on day's activities

Wednesday, JANUARY 7

Theme 5: Urban sprawl, the city absorbs neighboring towns and settlements

Theme 6: Social and economic contrasts

Theme 7: Importing contemporary urban models

8 am Introduction to the day's activities

10 am Visit to "old" Santa Fé. Walking tour of the area

2 pm Visit to "new" Santa Fé (corporate development)

6 pm Return to the Casa de los Amigos

- *Update journals*
 - *Comments on day's activities*
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Thursday, JANUARY 8

Theme 8: Conurbation in Mexico City metropolitan issues

Theme 9: "Rural" Mexico City

8 am Introduction to the day's activities

10 am Bus tour of the municipality with local authorities to see social, economic, ecological contrasts, side by side

12 am Meeting with authorities of the Municipality of Huixquilucan

- *Presentation of the development plans for this conurbated municipality*

3 pm Lunch with authorities

6 pm Return to the Casa de los Amigos

- *Update journals*
 - *Comments on day's activities*
-

Friday, JANUARY 9

Charrette

8 am Introduction to the day's activities

9:30 Visit to the Universidad Iberoamericana

10 am Charrette at the University

- *Mexico City, problems and solutions*

1:30 pm Lunch at the University

3 pm After having lunch, we will continue with the charrette activities

4:30 Review of charrette projects

6 pm Return to the Casa de los Amigos

- *Update journals*
-

Saturday, JANUARY 10

Theme 10: Urban agriculture

8 am Introduction to the day's activities

9:30 am Visit to Xochimilco

- *Urban agriculture*
- *Ride on a "Chinampa"*
- *Light lunch on the Chinampa.*

2 pm Return to the Casa de los Amigos

- *Comments on day's activities*
- *Hand in journals*
- *Summary of week's course*

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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where:

52 is the country code (Mexico)

55 is the Mexico City area code

and then the 8 digit local number

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suypaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.