

ENVS 437I International Business and Environmental Sustainability in Mexico: San Miguel de Allende's food and water cultures, histories, activism

Tentative itinerary, Mexico 2022

Day 1: Welcome and Orientation • Students arrive at the Leon/Guanajuato Airport and are transported to Guanajuato City; • Orientation and safety sessions; • Spanish class; • Students will have the evening to discover the city. Expectations for the course set.

Day 2: Guanajuato • Cultural tour of Guanajuato City; • Transport to Hostel Inn in San Miguel de Allende.

Day 3: The work of Caminos de Agua; Tour of Spriluna farm; Historical Site Visit • Setting the context: Introduction to Northern Guanajuato's water crisis and the work of Caminos de Agua; • Tour of Caminos de Agua's facilities & introduction of water technologies including: rainwater harvesting systems, ceramic water filter production, biochar production, slow-sand biofiltration, passive solar water pump, bicycle water pump, sustainable brick manufacture, and sustainable building practices; • Tour of Spirulina Viva's Production Farm (Spriluna Blue Algae Production); • Atotonilco Chapel: UNESCO World Heritage Site and cornerstone of the Mexican Independence Revolution.

Day 4-7: Food, Soil, and Carbon Module: Hand's-on learning at the Vía Orgánica Ranch • Transport to the Vía Orgánica Ranch; • Tour of the Vía Orgánica Ranch; • Morning Spanish/Culture Classes Provided Daily; 1-2 cooking classes provided in the evenings; • Course Topics: o Climate change, desertification, and food security o Water crisis and the role of agriculture and land management o Regenerative agriculture as a multifunctional solution o The Soil Food Web as the foundation of life on Earth o Keyline design for water management at landscape levels o Agroforestry and the role of trees in the carbon and water cycles o Holistic planned grazing as a tool for ecosystem restoration o The challenges and opportunities ahead of us \*The participants will spend 4 days and 3 nights at the ranch in dormitories. All food will be provided by Vía Orgánica and the main course instructor will be Gerardo Ruiz, an expert in permaculture, Keyline design, and food systems.

Day 8-9: Water Module and the Impact of Foreign Assistance on Development Projects This module will combine social and historical narratives with technical water solutions. It is meant to prepare students for the field days in the local community. These sessions will provide political, social, and historical contexts to Mexico's' economic development, and its impact on water systems as well as an introduction to local, national, and global water issues. Additionally, these sessions will provide methodology and analysis for project implementation, community organizing, and working in a rural village context. • Topics include: o Water Politics in Mexico; o Over-extraction and Contamination: A History of the Causes and Consequences of Northern Guanajuato's Water Crisis and its Global Implications; o Field Water Quality Monitoring; o Projects vs. Processes: Understanding the Impact of Foreign Assistance in at-risk Communities & Caminos de Agua's Model for Community Development; o Rural-to-Urban Migration: Impacts on Communities and the Environment (Guest speakers sharing personal migration stories); o Updating the Narrative: Water Contaminants and their Solutions for the 21st Century; o Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) Systems for Rural, Urban, and Peri-urban Settings: Theory and Design; o Asset Based Community Development Principles (Guest lecture by a Board member of the Asset Based Community Development Institute); o Preparing for the Field: Guidelines and Expectations 2

Workshop Presentation: Production of Traditional and Ceremonial Tortillas with the women of El Llanito (Day 1 in the afternoon); • Tour of Charco del Ingenio Botanic gardens (Day 2 in the afternoon).

Days 10-13: • Travel to the Pozo Ademado Community Center; • Participation in the construction of a 12,000-liter Rainwater Harvesting System during the days. Participants are expected to work and learn with local community members. • Additional activities: o Lecture Presentation: Community organizing, activism & engagement: The work of the Pozo Ademado Community Center/CODECIN and the struggle for safe and healthy water access in northern Guanajuato; o Lecture Presentation: Women & Water; o Traditional cooking class; Round Table on Regional Water Issues with local actors.

Day 14: Travel day.