# **ENVS/UEPP 437I Summer. 2022.** International Business and Environmental Sustainability in Mexico: San Miguel de Allende’s food and water cultures, histories, activism

**This program asks the following questions, which we will be exploring throughout:**

*What are major forces behind wealth and poverty in Mexico?*

*Is globalization the most powerful explanation of central Mexico’s rise?*

*Is regional development in Mexico sustainable?*

*What role does food and culinary history play in Mexican culture, politics, and development?*

**There are three stages to this experience:**

1. *Pre-trip:*Many course readings are to be completed prior to departure (see Canvas). Students may be asked to complete a workshop in spring quarter 2022 by Tim Costello and Travis Tennessen of the WWU Center for Service-Learning.
2. *Trip*: While in San Miguel de Allende, students complete at least **35 hours** of lecture (including language class) and at least **30 hours** of travel, field trips, and Via Organica workshops. Itinerary will be posted on course IPE/GLP website. Be sure to read the behavior policy below!
3. *Post-trip*: You will need to reflect on the program. Find these assignments, and their due dates, in Canvas. In addition, you will write a self-assessment.

**Student behavior policy:**

Students are not to go out at night unless in groups. Do not go out by yourself at any time. Even if you are of drinking age, intoxication is prohibited. One violation is unsafe. You can be sent home – see the file Faculty Led Codes of Conduct for details. Specifically, this is covered by:

**Participants are expected to refrain from traveling in areas, or at times, where travel is considered unsafe by the host country government and/or program representatives.  U.S. State Department travel warnings and advisories should be referred to for information relevant to U.S. citizens.  U.S. State Department website:** [**http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings.html**](http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings.html)

Pre-Trip: Readings and writing assignments to connect university work with field experiences and service. Part of our pre-trip work will include articulating questions relevant to our lectures with Caminos de Agua and Las Rancheritas.

## COURSE CONTENT AND SAMPLE READINGS (PRE-TRIP)

### MEXICO’S FOOD HERITAGES

Gary Nabhan. *Where Our Food Comes From* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2009), pp. 1-21.

S. Coe, *America’s First Cuisines* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994), chapters on the Aztecs and Mayas, pp. 66-168.

C. Mann “1491,” *Atlantic Monthly,* Mar 2002.

### THE COLOMBIAN EXCHANGE

*In which we discuss Vavilov centers of food crop diversity, food crop domesticates in specific world regions, and the global movement of food*

J. Carney and R. Rosomoff, *In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa’s Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011), chapters 1, 2, 10 in 397H and 3,4,5,6 for 397I.

J. Carney. “The Colombian Exchange,” in Joseph C. Miller (ed.) *Princeton Companion to Atlantic History* (New York: MTM Press, 2013), pp. 108-111.

Mintz, S. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*, Chapters 1, 2, 4.

also: Rice in Mexico: (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nTU5zfGp6gQ>)

### FOOD AND IDENTITY

D. Lind and E. Barnham. “The Social Life of the Tortilla: Food, Cultural Politics, and Contested Commodification,” *Agriculture and Human Value*s, 21 (2004), pp. 47-60.

Jeffrey Pilcher. *Qué vivan los tamales: food and the making of Mexican Identity* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998), pp. 7-24.

### MEXICO TODAY – NAFTA, THE ENVIRONMENT, CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

Malkin, Elisabeth. “Prosperous Mexican Farms Suck Up Water, Leaving Villages High and Dry.” *New York Times*, May 19, 2016.

“Rainwater Harvesting,” Caminos de Agua. <http://caminosdeagua.org/rainwater-harvesting/> [this is the group leading our travel and work in the campo – make sure you’re familiar with what they do!]

Knappett, PSK, et al. “Increasing Arsenic and Flouride Concentrations in an Intensively Pumped Aquifer System in Central Mexico.” GSA Annual Meeting, 2016. <https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2016AM/webprogram/Paper281753.html>

Patterson, Brent. “NAFTA Extractivism and the Human Right to Water in San Miguel de Allende.” The Council of Canadians, September 3, 2016. <https://canadians.org/blog/nafta-extractivism-and-human-right-water-san-miguel-de-allende>

### COLONIALISM, NEOLIBERALISM & GENOCIDE

Elizabeth Martinez and Arnoldo García, *What is “Neo-Liberalism”? A brief definition* (2001).

### LAND-REFORM, REVOLUTION, CAPITALISM & NARCO-CORRUPTION

Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution* (1980). Full article.

Dylan Terrell, *The Rise of Neoliberalism: Stagnant poverty and inequality in a post-NAFTA* *Mexico* (2011). Sections: Introduction, Historical background, Mexican poverty 1982-1994.

Benjamin Waddell, *The Political Economy of Remittance-led Development in Guanajuato,* *Mexico* (2013). Dedication and selections from chapter 2 (including table).

Rafa Fernandez De Castro, *A History of Violence: A decade of unmarked grave discoveries in* *Mexico* (2015).

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| |  | | --- | | EXPORT AGRICULTURE, GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION & MIGRATION |   Jaime D. Hoogesteger van Dijk, *“The Underground” Understanding the failure of institutional* *responses to reduce groundwater exploitation in Guanajuato* (2004). Chapter 2, sections 2.1 and 2.2.  Benjamin Waddell, *The Political Economy of Remittance-led Development in Guanajuato,* *Mexico* (2013). Case study: El Timbinal, Yuriría, Guanajuato.  *Interview with Elizabeth Velasco* (2017).  *Mexico: Guanajuato leading exporter of broccoli* (2015)*.* Full article.  Sarah, Kliff, *Americans actually really like broccoli* (2012). Full article. ORGANIZING, EMPOWERMENT & REVOLUTION John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path* *Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets* (1993). Introduction.  Barack Obama, *Why Organize? Problems and Promise in the Inner City* (1990). Full article.  Sophie Style, *Community regeneration in Chiapas: The Zapatista struggle for autonomy* (2000). Full article.  Karla Zabludovsky, *Reclaiming the Forests and the Right to Feel Safe* (2012). Full article. *New York Times* article describes struggle of one community in Michoacán (central México) to gain sovereignty. |
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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Participation in Canvas (as evaluated and assessed in Canvas modules) pre-departure readings and writings……………………………………………...........................30%

Attendance and participation in Mexico…………………………………25%

Field trip paper #1 (several pages double spaced) ……………………..…5%

Field trip paper #2 (several pages double spaced) ………....……………..5%

Program reflections (integrating all material, 12 pages double spaced)……………………….…………………………………………....30%

Self-assessment………………..…………………………………………...5%