

MAYA LANGUAGE STUDY IN GUATEMALA

OXLAJUUJ AJ: Kaqchikel Maya Language & Culture Intensive Summer Institute

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

June 22 – July 31, 2009

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 20, 2009

By working closely with their Kaqchikel colleagues, course participants gain new perspectives.

Kaqchikel, one of the principal Mayan languages, is spoken by more than half a million people in highland Guatemala. The region's long-standing language and literary traditions, including texts from the 16th Century, continue today as new works in modern Kaqchikel are published in ever growing numbers. Efforts to preserve and protect the language are playing a pivotal role in the Mayan struggle to regain control over their political and cultural destiny.

The Stone Center for Latin American Studies offers an intensive six-week course in this vital language and its culture, a unique opportunity to observe and study the complex process as a traditionally marginalized language is standardized for use in education and publication. Judith M. Maxwell, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics at Tulane, is director of the program and serves as a resource and guide for students. With the assistance of Kaqchikel teachers, she plans cultural activities, guides discussions about Maya life, and invites noted Maya scholars, activists, educators, and health professionals to speak to students. The program is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates with appropriate academic backgrounds and a working knowledge of Spanish.

This program is envisioned as a shared learning experience between students and teachers. While gaining access to Mayan culture, students also provide their Mayan collaborators with access to the large body of scholarship on their culture which has been published in the United States and Europe.

Courses

Students have the opportunity of enrolling in a three-credit version of the program by taking either Beginning (ANTH 684), Intermediate (ANTH 757), or Advanced Kaqchikel Language (ANTH 758) for three credits each or the six-credit program version including one language course plus a Kaqchikel Maya Culture (ANTH 687) course for an additional three credits.

Cost of the Program

The cost of the six-week program is \$3,500 for the three-credit option and \$3,900 for the six-credit option. The cost includes the following: three or six undergraduate/graduate credits from Tulane University, medical insurance, specialized tours and outings designed for participants in the program, and travel in between sites on the program. Housing and airfare are not included in the program price.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information and an application, contact:

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