



Bolivia

Multiculturalism, Globalization, and Social Change

Credits 16
Program Base Cochabamba
Language Study Spanish
Homestay Cochabamba, 6 weeks
Rural Visit/Homestay 5 days

Educational Excursions La Paz, Lake Titicaca, Tiwanaku, Potosi, Sucre, and Santa Cruz or an alternate location in the tropical lowlands
Independent Study Project 4 weeks
Prerequisites Three recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

Multiculturalism, Globalization, and Social Change Seminar

LACB 3000 / 5 credits / 75 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish, with required readings, examining Bolivia's history and current economic, political, and cultural processes. Students consider the country's contemporary challenges to economic development, particularly among Bolivia's large indigenous populations and under the leadership of the first indigenous president to be elected in the Americas. Resources utilized in the delivery of course content include The Democracy Center, Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios at the Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Mujeres Creando, the Andean Information Network, and Water for People. Lectures and discussions for this course generally include the following topics:

Historical Foundations

Features and contributions of major indigenous groups (Quechua and Aymara); historical development of Bolivian political systems; roots of the current economic situation.

Andean and Amazonian Culture and Cosmovision

Analysis of contemporary sociocultural landscapes; the meaning and construction of culture in the Bolivian context; indigenous and feminist issues; the role of cosmovision in art and music; roles of cultural identity and cosmovision in the formation of social movements.

Development Models and Practice

History of development approaches; role of private/public sectors, including transnational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and social movements; resistance to globalization and neoliberal reform; women and development; urbanization; informal economy; sustainable participatory development; natural resource management; regional development processes and proposals for autonomy; coca/cocaine economy,

alternative development, and the US "drug wars"; critique of development.

Educational Excursions

The program features field trips to La Paz, Lake Titicaca, Tiwanaku, Santa Cruz or an alternate location in the tropical lowlands, Potosi, Sucre, and other sites as feasible.

Intensive Language Study: Spanish

SPAN 2005-4005 / 5 credits / 75 class hours
 Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive intermediate or advanced classes, with further language practice in homestays, lectures, and field visits. Students already fluent in Spanish may study Quechua in lieu of Spanish for an additional fee.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours
 A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
 Conducted in Cochabamba, La Paz, or in another approved location in Bolivia appropriate to the project. Students have the unique option of producing a documentary film or writing and publishing a children's book on their selected topic. Sample topic areas: film and social change; migration and family survival strategies; impact of the neoliberal development model;

role of women in civil society; legacy of liberation theology today; globalization and water politics in Cochabamba; the struggle between indigenous and multinational companies over environmental rights and the nationalization of natural resources; the struggle over land rights in indigenous communities; the effect of urban violence on women in marginalized communities; the integration of traditional and Western medicine; ethno-development and cultural change; application of educational reform; the effects of global warming on glaciers in the Andes.

Homestay

Six weeks in Cochabamba and five days in a rural village. Other accommodations during the program include hostels, private homes, or small hotels.

Collaborative Opportunities

Working with partners such as The Democracy Center, a San Francisco- and Cochabamba-based social justice organization, gives students firsthand exposure to the compelling issues they are studying in Bolivia. The Democracy Center focuses on investigation and reporting, training citizens in public advocacy, and leading international citizen campaigns. Past collaborations for SIT students have included creating an oral history/video archive marking the six-year anniversary of the Water Wars and a YouTube video on coca policy produced for the US Republican Party debates. Several former students have returned to Bolivia to work for The Democracy Center following graduation.