

LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY
LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Alternative Tourism:
Exploring the Yucatán Peninsula

RECR159

I. Introductory Information:

- (A) Department Name: Recreation Management
- (B) Department Catalog Number: RECR159
- (C) Course Title: Alternative Tourism: Exploring the Yucatán Peninsula
- (D) Semester Hours of Credit: 3
- (E) Clock Hours Per Week: 3
- (F) Overlays: None
- (G) Restrictions Upon Student Registration: None

II. Description of the Course:

An 11-day expedition to the Yucatán Peninsula involving visits to modern “mass tourism” cities, alternative tourist sites in Mayan villages, ancient Mayan archaeological sites, Spanish colonial cities, and protected natural areas. Emphasis is placed on understanding alternative tourism and its values in relationship to mass tourism, and the role and impact of tourism in the Yucatán. Students will explore a variety of Mexican cultures, practice basic Spanish, and experience environmentally friendly *turismo alternativo*.

III. Exposition:

A. Objectives:

Upon completion of the seminar, students will be able to do the following:

1. Identify lifestyles and customs specific to indigenous populations and Mexicans of other descent.

2. Discuss the challenges of ecotourism in Mexico as a result of mass tourism.
3. Discuss the effects of tourism on the natural environment.
4. Understand the historical achievements of the ancient Mayan civilization.
5. Contrast several different cultural and natural environments.
6. Compare the lifestyle differences between the Maya, other Mexicans, and themselves.

B. Activities and Requirements:

1. Attend all pre-trip classes, accept trip itinerary and travel schedule.
2. Act in a responsible manner as representatives of the United States and Lock Haven University.
3. Participate in adventure and tourism activities.
4. Participate in debriefing/ discussion groups.
5. Write daily journal entries and a reflection paper.

C. Major Units and Time Allotted:

Readings on the history, people, and culture of the Yucatán Peninsula along with material on ecotourism will be selected by the professor. The trip will occur from March 7-17, 2007.

Beginning January 16, 2007, weekly pre-trip meetings

D. Material and Bibliography:

1. **Suggested textbooks:** none
2. **Other materials:** handouts
3. **Bibliographic support:**

Fennell, D. (2003). *Ecotourism* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.

- Franz, C. (2002). *Carl Franz's the people's guide to Mexico*. Santa Fe, NM: John Muir Publications.
- Greensfelder, B. (2003). *Yucatán*. Oakland, CA: Lonely Planet.
- Honey, M. (Ed.). (2002). *Ecotourism and certification – Setting standards in practice*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Kelly, J. (1993). *An archaeological guide to Mexico's Yucatán peninsula*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma.
- Lonely Planet. (2003). *Latin American phrasebook (4th ed.)*. Oakland, CA: Lonely Planet.
- Mader, R. (1998). *Ron Mader's Mexico – Adventures in Mexico*. Avalon Traveling.
- McLaren, D. (2003). *Rethinking tourism & ecotravel*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.
- Simon, J. (1997). *Endangered Mexico—An environment on the edge*. San Francisco: Sierra Club.

IV. Standards:

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the grading policies of the University and will be based on the quality of work demonstrated by the students in meeting the course requirements.

V. Rationale and Impact:

- A. Course has been developed to supplement our courses in tourism and outdoor recreation, and to further the university's commitment to international understanding by providing students an opportunity to study and travel outside of the United States.
- B. Course is specifically designed for recreation majors to help them become more aware of recreational pursuits and their value in a global context. But the course will appeal to students in other majors.
- C. Students in the Outdoor Recreation track of recreation management will be able to select this course as one of six courses required for the Outdoor Recreation track. Others who want to practice Spanish language skills may also opt to enroll in this course.