Course Syllabus

History of Indigenous Cultures in Peru
LACB-3000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Peru: Indigenous Peoples and Globalization

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description
This thematic seminar aims to provide an overview of the historical processes and context in which to understand the indigenous people of Peru. This historical examination of both Andean and Amazonian experiences provides students with a fundamental base for understanding the contemporary situation of indigenous people in Peruvian society as well as the effects of urbanization and globalization processes. The seminar is organized into three blocks:

1. Historical perspectives of indigenous peoples: pre-Columbian period, colonialism, and independence/new republic and contemporary.
2. Andean cultures: cosmovision, genesis, and challenges of urban society.
3. Amazonian cultures: cosmovision, gender, history of the caucho period, and native medicine and Shamanic practices.

Expected Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following:

• Relate historical processes to the contemporary situations and conditions of the first nations of Peru.
• Analyze indigenous diversity within Peru’s population and how distinct groups have experienced urbanization and globalization.
• Relate the historical struggle of Andean and Amazonian people for land tenure and resource ownership.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught in Spanish with readings in English and Spanish.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers’ availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.
Module 1: History of Indigenous Peoples in Peru before Columbus
This module explores the history of Peruvian peoples prior to the Conquest. Special attention is paid to pre-Colombian groups of the Andes and Amazonia.

Session 1: The Inkas: History of Tawantinsuyo, Forging of the Pre-Hispanic State

Session 2: Formation of the Bases of Andean Religion and Cosmology

Session 3: Origins of Indigenous Andean Art and Ritual in Peru

Session 4: History of Amazonian Peoples through Language

Required Reading:

Module 2: History of Indigenous Peoples of Peru after Columbus
Module 2 provides the backdrop and discussion of the Conquest. Formation of the Peruvian republic is also reviewed.

Session 1: The conquest of Peru: History of Disastrous Contact

Session 2: The Colonial Era and Indigenous Peoples

Session 3: The Republic: From Indians and Peasants to Indigenous Peoples

Required Readings:

Module 3: History and Culture Contemporary of Indigenous Peoples
The focus of Module 3 is the recent events in Peruvian indigenous history, including periods of political violence, struggles over resources, and societal transformations.

Session 1: Indigenous Peoples in the 20th Century

Session 2: Indigenous Peoples in the Era of Political Violence in Peru

Required Readings:
Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

Discussion paper: Students are required to write a five to seven page paper on a topic of their choice pertinent to the themes of the class. The paper should contain bibliographic references as well as references to course lectures, readings, and field experiences.

Group project: Four groups will be formed and assigned to an excursion. Each group will be responsible for producing a project on one excursion. The group will prepare a five-page paper prior to the excursion which will be distributed to the entire student group. The paper will discuss the relevant literature and the target issue of the excursion (defined by academic staff). The group will present the paper to the class prior to the excursion. Following the excursion, the group will craft a PowerPoint presentation and paper brief on the resulting prominent themes of the excursion and, in conjunction with the academic director, will develop the questions that will be used during the processing session.

Exam: The course exam is cumulative and includes short answer and essay questions.

Participation: Participation refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means culturally appropriate, polite, and respectful behavior.

Assessment:

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<td>Group Project</td>
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<td>Exam</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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Grading Scale

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Expectations and Policies

- Assignments: Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth, argumentation, and presentation of evidence.
- Readings: Students are responsible for all of the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear in class. The readings will help place the classes in context, engage lecturers, generate questions for class discussions, and deepen student knowledge of
particular issues discussed in class.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.