Faculty-led Study Abroad: Cusco, Peru

LANG 495-001  3 Credits
May 8—23, 2020
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rebecca Berru Davis
EMAIL: rebecca.berrudavis@msubillings.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This two-week course provides students with a faculty-led immersion experience to Cusco, Peru with the aim of developing Spanish language proficiency within a contextual framework. The course includes four class meetings prior to departure to prepare students for travel and orient them with the cultural information that will support their experience. Once in Cusco, it includes 40 hours of language instruction, guided excursions, and a homestay with a Peruvian family arranged with our partner school, the Academia Latinoamérica de Español. This three-credit course includes Spanish instruction appropriately geared to the student’s level (beginning, intermediate, or advanced), course materials, and on-going and cumulative assessment. Local tours of historic sites with a bi-lingual guide and a weekend excursion to Machu Picchu are arranged by the Academia. Homestay with a Peruvian family includes breakfast and the main meal. Volunteer experience opportunities are also offered and coordinated by the school in conjunction with the faculty instructor as per student interest and/or discipline (e.g. education; business; environmental, etc.).

Total cost is estimated at $2,740, not including airfare. Language instruction, lodging, meals, tours and the weekend excursion to Machu Picchu are all included in this cost. Three MSUB credits (LANG 495) are also included through Spring registration. This total figure is based on the minimum number of five students and will decrease as student numbers increase to ten. The RT cost of airfare from Billings is estimated at $1,700.

COURSE OUTCOMES:
Students will
• Increase language proficiency as they learn new communication skills, strategies and resources in the context of language immersion.
• Develop practical intercultural competencies necessary to comfortably and successfully navigate their cultural context.
• Gain an understanding of Peruvian culture and history and use this knowledge in formal and informal settings evidenced in discussion, journal writing, and/or presentation.
Course Materials:

- The “Common Read” prior to travel, is Mark Adams, *Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time*. NY: Plume, 2012. This novel provides an account of Andean history at the time of the Conquest, a critique of the “rediscovery” of Machu Picchu by Hiram Bingham at the turn of the 20th century, and an analysis and insights into contemporary Peruvian culture.

- Additional instructional materials will be provided by Academia Latinoamérica de Español.

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<tr>
<th>REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>GRADING SCALE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and engagement in meetings prior to departure.</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>94 and above=A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade calculated by the Academia Instructors</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>74-76 = C</td>
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<td>Participation and engagement in discussion while in Cusco and final Journal submission.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70-73 = C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>67-69 = D+</td>
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<td>84-86 = B</td>
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<td>80-83 = B-</td>
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<td>64-66 = D</td>
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<td>77-79 = C+</td>
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<td>59 and below=F</td>
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Course Schedule

Group Meetings Prior to Departure. Dates TBA.

January  
Initial meeting for orientation, logistics and introduction to the “Common Read.”

February  
Book discussion focus: Part 1 – Andean cultural history

March  
Book discussion focus: Part 2 – The city of Cusco and Machu Picchu

April  
Office of International meeting to cover final details

Week One in Cusco

May 8  
Travel from Billings, MT to Cusco, Peru

May 9  
Saturday arrival in Cusco; Family homestay orientation; rest and adjustment to altitude.

May 10  
Sunday visit to Awakanancha (llama breeding project) and indigenous cooperative textile project. Hike through Pisac ruins and down to the Sacred Valley. Lunch and afternoon visit to Pisac Indian Market.

May 11-15  
**Daily language instruction: mornings 8:30 to 1:00pm (20 hours)**
First week guided historical tours and activities. Walking tour of Imperial city of Cusco; Bus tour of Sacsayhuaman Fortress; ruins of Qenko and Tambomachay/Temple of the Water; Salsa dance instruction. Afternoon volunteer opportunities (optional). Discussion gathering #1.

Weekend Travel

May 16-17  
Week Two in Cusco

May 18-22  Daily language instruction: mornings 8:30 to 12:40pm (20 hours)
Second week guided historical tours and activities: Tour of Qorichancha (Temple of the Sun)/Colonial church of Santo Domingo and Cusco Cathedral; Merengue/Salsa/Bachata dance instruction; Peruvian cooking lesson. Afternoon volunteer opportunities (optional). Discussion gathering #2.

May 23  Free day or hike to Rainbow Mountain (optional)

On Return
May 30  Deadline for Journal submission.

Detailed schedule will be finalized with Academia LatinoAmericana prior to departure.