

¿Por qué es importante para los Trabajadores Sociales entender a culture **Méxicana**?

Why is it important for **Social Workers** to understand **Mexican** culture?

Consider these facts:

1. According to the US census, 52 million people or about 16.7% of the total number of people residing in the United States are Hispanic, making it the largest minority group in the country. Only **Mexico** has a larger total Hispanic population. It is expected that by 2050, 30% of the US population or 132.8 million residents will be of Hispanic origin.
2. Hispanic/Latinos are the second largest and fastest growing minority racial and ethnic population in Wisconsin. As of 2010, this group constituted 5.9 % of the population, totaling 336,056 people. This population has increased 74 % between 2000-10.
3. About two-thirds of Wisconsin's Hispanic/Latino population is concentrated in Brown, Dane, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth and Milwaukee counties. However, this population is rapidly growing in other areas of Wisconsin and while most of these individuals are under age 18, many are now entering senior citizen status.
4. In 62% of Wisconsin's Hispanic homes, Spanish is the primary language spoken.
5. About 29% of Hispanics in Brown County live in poverty, higher than the state average.
6. These demographics will continue to greatly impact the social service, education, health and employment systems in Wisconsin and the U.S. and will increase the demand for social work professionals who can communicate with Spanish speaking individuals and who have a working knowledge & understanding of Latino culture.



Taxco (The Silver City), Morelos, MX



Cuernavaca, Mexico

What to expect: This three credit academic program is based in **Cuernavaca**, the capital of the state of Morelos, with a population of more than 400,000. About a 45-minute scenic drive southwest of **Mexico City**, **Cuernavaca** is snuggled in seven valleys surrounded by majestic mountains. Most of the Aztec emperors called **Cuernavaca** their summer residence, attesting to its nickname “The City of Eternal Spring”.

While in **Cuernavaca**, students will live with local families so they are immersed in the Spanish language while studying in small groups of 3-5 persons at the ASLI Spanish Language Institute. **Mexican** history, politics, culture, and social service systems will be explored through guest speakers and numerous excursions.

Tours of regional cultural sites will be offered many evenings, as well as weekends, including our host city of **Cuernavaca** and visits to the silver city of **Taxco**, the archaeological site of **Teotihuacan**, the indigenous village of **Tepoztlan**, the canals of **Xochimilco**, and, of course, **Mexico City**. This year, we will also have a 3-day weekend in **Acapulco**!



Farewell fiesta at ASLI-Spanish Language Institute: Cuernavaca



Painting crafts in an indigenous artisan family home.

We will learn about the socio-economic realities in **Mexico**, social movements for human rights, reflect on militarism and globalization, and study immigration from the **Mexican** perspective. Eye-opening visits and intimate conversations will take place with specific populations in settings such as family violence shelters, a women's prison, an orphanage, a migrant worker's camp and an indigenous artisan family's home, to name a few. Social Work students will also have the opportunity for service learning.

About the program: This travel course is open to anyone (including majors other than

social work), social work professionals, volunteers, community members, and students from other universities. (Note: priority is given to social work majors.) **No Spanish language knowledge is required**, as students are placed in classes suited to their level of proficiency.

We will travel from **December 27, 2016-January 17, 2017**. The estimated cost is \$3520.00 (based on 7 travelers) and includes airfare, lodging, meals, tuition, and excursions. Social work faculty will travel with the students and a syllabus, along with readings and course assignments, will be provided.

Check with the Office of International Studies for registration deadlines, fee schedules, and other relevant travel preparedness information. Follow this link: www.uwgb.edu/international/

For more information, you may also contact the travel course leader: Prof. Karen Jick at jickk@uwgb.edu

Nos vemos en México! See you in México!