SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
SPANISH
The Mexico Experience: Perspectives in Action

The Mexico Experience is a semester-long study abroad program run by Siena Heights University from January - April. It was started more than a decade ago by the late Professor Renato Gonzalez and lasts 14-15 weeks from January to April. Students immerse themselves in the language and culture of Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. The mission of the program is to provide the student with as many perspectives as possible while fulfilling our motto to LIVE. STUDY. TRAVEL.

LIVE All students live with carefully selected Mexican families who have worked with Siena for many years. All homes are within walking distance of each other; each student receives a cell phone to stay in contact with our on-site director and other students.

STUDY Learning Spanish is more than just speaking it. In addition to language classes, students take courses in history, culture, religion and literature. In the culture class, students learn to sing, dance and cook! Students are in classes with other students from Siena Heights; classes are conducted at UNIC Universidad Cuauhnahuac.

TRAVEL We believe the learning experience should extend beyond the classroom. Because of this, the program organizes special cultural excursions supervised by the director and program staff. Students venture to places like Tepoztlan, Taxco, Xochicalco and Mexico City. Cuernavaca, also known as the City of the Eternal Spring, has a sub-tropical climate with warm, sunny days and cool nights. It is located close to archeological ruins, impressive scenery and natural spas.

For those who may have concerns about traveling to a foreign country, safety is a top priority. Our full-time on site coordinator is there to supervise all travel activities while in Mexico. An yes, the homes students stay in do have running water!

“I decided to study in Mexico because it seemed like fun. I had no idea that not only would it be fun, but also challenging, enriching and a life-changing experience.”
— Christine Coleman, Siena Graduate

“The Siena Heights Spanish program is unique from other programs because our students receive many perspectives about the Latino world. The instructors serve as guides, mentors and coaches to help our students become multilingual and multicultural. Students are taught by faculty who have either lived or traveled extensively in Spanish-speaking countries. Additionally, we offer a personalized study-abroad program that is tailored to students’ individual needs and abilities.”
— Nicholas R. Kaplan, Department Chair
About the Spanish Department

At Siena Heights University you will learn to speak fluently in Spanish. You will apply your speaking, reading, writing and listening skills to the study of Latino history, culture and literature. We believe that language and culture are inseparable. For that reason, as part of the Spanish major, you spend a semester in a Spanish-speaking country.

Spanish majors at Siena understand cultural diversity and are able to apply that knowledge to a variety of jobs and situations. We live in a globalized world that requires competent, purposeful and ethical individuals to work within multiple cultures. Our students graduate with the ability to communicate well with diverse populations.

Most importantly, studying Spanish at Siena is fun! You have the opportunity to study abroad, meet new people, and have new experiences. Spanish majors have the opportunity to earn money as Spanish tutors, volunteer as translators and interpreters, and be involved in the Latino community.

CAREERS

Spanish increases your job opportunities, employability, and marketability. Employers seek people who can speak a second language. People who study Spanish at Siena Heights University understand how cultures interact with one and another and are able to apply those skills in future jobs. Some career opportunities include:

- Advertising
- Bilingual Education
- Consultant
- Cultural Officer
- Customs and Immigration
- Foreign Service Officer
- Health professions
- Interpretation and Translation
- Law Enforcement
- Lawyer
- Nursing
- Politician
- Reporter
- Research
- Social Worker
- Travel Agent
- Teacher
- Volunteer Agencies
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish

DEGREE MAJOR

A. Humanities Division Core Requirements
   1. HUM 201 Heritage of the Humanities I  3
   2. HUM 240 Heritage of the Humanities II  3

B. Spanish Requirements
   1. SPA 240 Intermediate Spanish I       4
   2. SPA 241 Intermediate Spanish II      4
   3. SPA 340 Spanish Conversation I      3
   4. SPA 341 Spanish Conversation II     3
   5. SPA 343 Advanced Composition         3
   6. SPA 311 Culture & Civilization of Spain  3
   7. SPA 312 Culture & Civilization of Latin America   3
   8. SPA 347 Culture & History of Mexico  3
   9. SPA 495 Senior Seminar              3

C. Approved Literature Electives (choose 3)
   1. SPA 333 Mexican Literature          3
   2. SPA 352 Literature of Latin America 3
   3. SPA 353 Literature of Spain         3
   4. SPA 410 Masterpieces of Hispanic Literature in Translation 3
   5. SPA 450 Golden Age of Spanish Literature  3

Total for Major ........................................ 47 semester hours

DEGREE MINOR

A. Spanish Requirements
   1. SPA 240 Intermediate Spanish I       4
   2. SPA 241 Intermediate Spanish II      4
   3. SPA 340 Spanish Conversation I      3
   4. SPA 341 Spanish Conversation II     3
   5. SPA 343 Advanced Composition         3

B. Approved Literature Electives (choose 2)
   1. SPA 333 Mexican Literature          3
   2. SPA 352 Literature of Latin America 3
   3. SPA 353 Literature of Spain         3
   4. SPA 450 Golden Age of Spanish Literature  3

C. Approved General Spanish Electives (choose 2)
   1. SPA 311 Culture and Civilization of Spain  3
   2. SPA 312 Culture and Civilization of Latin America 3
   3. SPA 353 Literature of Spain         3
   4. SPA 347 Culture and History of Mexico  3

Total for Minor ........................................ 29 semester hours

“The small class sizes were very helpful. It was a great learning environment because the teachers could focus more on students and get to know their learning styles. Whenever I needed help with homework, tests or anything, they would be willing to put in the time.”

— Kimberly Meyer, Siena Graduate