



NAME			HOURS	CREDITS
BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY IN MEXICO		THEORETICAL	4	8
COURSE NUMBER	COURSE CODE	PRACTICAL	0	0
100233	BCD01	TOTAL	4	8

DEPARTMENT
 COOPERACIÓN ACADÉMICA

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the importance of biocultural diversity for the survivorship of humanity, in the context of climate and global change.
2. Recognize the top position of Mexico at the ranking of biocultural diversity in the world.
3. Acquire the historical, cultural, ecological, and socio-economical tools to understand the high level of biocultural diversity of Mexico.
3. Get to see current expressions of Mexican biocultural diversity.
4. Become aware, and be able to analyze, the main issues that currently endanger the Mexican biocultural heritage.
5. Be able to identify and propose some actions and strategies to preserve and empower current expressions of biocultural diversity in Mexico and around the world.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (The student will be able to...)

1. Experience local culture and be exposed to Mexican landscapes through active learning pedagogies and outdoor classes, developing critical and complex thinking, and rise your awareness about social-environmental realities in Mexico and the world.
2. Understand why biological and cultural diversity are close linked and represent a key issue that still needs to be recognized and incorporated as part of the strategies to fight against climate and global change.
3. Become aware of some of the social, environmental, economic and political consequences of the current global system over indigenous populations in Mexico and around the world.
4. Learn about grassroot projects of indigenous communities that fight for their biocultural heritage conservation.
5. Increase personal culture by learning new and interesting topics about Mexico, and have fun!

TOPICS

1. Current context, discussions and alternatives proposed for biocultural diversity conservation in Latin America and the world
2. Threats for biocultural diversity and the fight for social-environmental justice in Mexico: case of studies
 - 2.1 Intelectual property rights
 - Appropriation vs Appreciation
 - Bioprospection and biopiracy
 - 2.2 Socio-environmental conflicts in Mexico
 - Mining, Energy and Infraestructure
 - Tourism
 - Narcotraffic
 - GMOs
3. Biocultural diversity: the role of indigenous cultures in the creation and conservation of biodiversity in Mexico

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- 3.1. Mexico's territory and biodiversity
- 3.2. The concept of Biocultural diversity
- 3.3. Traditional knowledge for sustainable ecological management
- 4. General approach to the Mexican biocultural diversity
 - 4.1. Mexican biocultural diversity at the world context
 - 4.2. Origin and evolution of Mexican biocultural diversity
 - First peoples, cultural areas, and the Mesoamerican civilization
 - Indigenous cosmovision's and syncretism after colonization
 - Indigenous cultures in Mexico today.
- 5. Successful experiences of preservation and empowerment of current expressions of biocultural diversity in Mexico and around the world.

METHOD

- Lectures
- Readings
- Field trip
- Films
- Discussions and debates
- Presentations
- Blog
- No exams

EVALUATION

REQUIREMENTS

Minimum attendance of 80%.

GRADING

TOOL	MANDATORY	PERCENTAGE	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
FIELD TRIP + video report	YES	20%	5 min video sharing the personal experience and lessons learned from the experience.
Class participation	YES	20%	Do homework readings, participate actively in class activities and group discussions; share your points of view, use critical thinking, expose your arguments properly.
Class presentations	YES	20%	One presentation by student to be exposed during the semester
Blog a) Blog's brief weekly posts (10) related to the topics of the class* *Well done extra posts count for extra points each	YES	20%	10 posts of 60-150 words* approx. + personal photos or videos: - Videos: 1-3 minutes (no edition necessary). - Photos: 1-3 minimum. *150-350 words posts count double
FINAL PAPER	YES	20%	Written systematization of the knowledge acquired through the course and final thoughts: 2500 words' essay