PROSPECTUS

Special Topics in Religion and Culture: U.S. Borderlands: Praxis and Context
RECU 70970/80970/90970
3 hours

Instructors: Dr. Francisco Lozada, Jr.
Dr. Irasema Coronado, University of Texas, El Paso

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructors

Description of Content:

The aim of this travel seminar is to visit various sites (e.g., non-profit organizations, social agencies, religious institutions) along the United States-Mexico border (El Paso, TX) in order to bring awareness of the various social, political, and theological complexities facing residents within the border region. Issues to be explored include: immigration, the border wall, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), human and civil rights, poverty and the environment. Other particular issues to be studied involve racialization, gender and sexuality, and class formations. During the week, students will examine first-hand the challenges border residents undergo and explore how religious and community leaders address these challenges.

Class Procedures: Travel Seminar (lectures, discussions, visits)

Information Session: Attend a 60-minute info session (TBD) on how to study in a travel seminar, travel, housing, food, financing, clothing, academics and more. Below are some pre-departure information matters.

- Travel Dates: Arrival: the afternoon (around 3pm) of Sunday, January 7th, and departure the Friday, January 12th (around 3pm).

- Please try to arrive in El Paso, Texas by 3:00pm. Once you have made your travel plans, please notify Dr. Francisco Lozada (f.lozada@tcu.edu). *If you choose to arrive prior to January 7 or depart after January 12, you will be responsible for your own ground transportation, lodging and food.

- Health: Consult your physician about your health in light of your travel plans. While strenuous walking is not a regular part of the travel seminar, there may several occasions when a long walk is necessary to reach a certain location. Frequent movement in and out of a cargo van will also be part of travel seminar. Please consult Francisco Lozada (f.lozada@tcu.edu) if you anticipate limitations.

- Food: Unlike many U.S. metropolitan cities, gluten-free foods might be limited in El Paso. Please take this into consideration.
Requirements:

RECU 70970
1. Attendance and informed participation during the travel seminar
2. Journal article review
3. Book review
4. Final theological reflection paper (10-12 pages)

RECU 80970
1. Attendance and informed participation during the travel seminar
2. Journal article review
3. Book review of your choice
4. Final interpretative paper (12-14 pages)

RECU 90970
1. Attendance and informed participation during the travel seminar
2. Journal article review
3. Book review of your choice
4. Scholarly research paper (20-22 pages)

Texts:


Grading Procedures:
- Class Participation: 30%
- Journal: 40%
- Paper: 30%