



Global Course Extension Info Session

Cuernavaca, Mexico 2027





Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Global Course Extension Model**
- **Course Information & Themes**
- **Financial Considerations**
- **Eligibility, Application Process, and Timeline**
- **Q & A**



Office of Global Activities Team



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About Me

- BA Anthropology & Latin American Studies
- Transformative study abroad experiences in Mexico, The Philippines, Tanzania, Honduras, & India
- ESL kindergarten teacher
- MSW & Office of Global Activities
- PhD in Higher Education
- Partner to a faculty member in the UM School of Public Health with two amazing kiddos





Global Course Extension Model

- Two-part course model
 - SW789 (Advanced Topics): a classroom-based 1-credit course
 - SW785 (Global Course Extension): a 2-credit course that takes place in an international location
- Both courses are taught in the same semester by the same faculty member
- Students must apply and be accepted to participate in a Global Course Extension
- Enrollment in and successful completion of the classroom-based 1-credit course is required for all students who will travel abroad for the 2-credit course
- Students who graduate before April 2027 are ineligible



Mexican History

- **Indigenous Mexico** (before 1521): Sophisticated civilizations including the Mayan, Aztec, Zapotec, and Teotihuacan developed major cities, trade networks, agricultural systems, and political institutions.
- **Colonial Mexico** (1521–1821): Spain conquered present day Mexico in 1521 and named it New Spain. Spanish political and religious institutions were brought to the area through colonization, while Indigenous and African peoples continued to profoundly shaped Mexican society and culture.
- **Independent Mexico** (1821- present): Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, which was followed by a period of political instability, territorial loss, foreign intervention, and major reforms including the Mexican Revolution 1910–1920. The modern state of Mexico has continuous debates about democracy, inequality, Indigenous rights, economic development, and Mexico's relationship with the world.



SW 789 Course Description

This course examines cross-cutting global issues occurring in Mexico and the U.S., with the aim of preparing students to work more effectively with Latino communities in the U.S. and beyond.

To accomplish this the course focuses on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The course provides an introduction to the SDGs, their historical foundation, and relevance to social work practice. Concrete case studies will be used to illustrate a range of SDGs that social workers in Mexico and the US address.



Sustainable Development Goals

- Health and wellbeing
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Reduction of inequalities
- Climate action



SW 785 Course Description

Based in Cuernavaca, Mexico, this course will examine selected SDGs in the Mexican context. Students will learn from local experts and visit community organizations to understand how Mexican social workers address social issues within their cultural context.

Students will also participate in daily Spanish lessons to enhance their language skills by learning and practicing Spanish social work terminology. Language skills are crucial for social workers to build trust with individuals and communities, understand diverse cultural needs, advocate effectively, and navigate complex challenges.





One of the world's leading Spanish training services dedicated to provide you with the highest possible quality in language training experience.

Provides personalized engaging instruction to learners of all backgrounds and levels of interest. Students from over 25 countries. Students from more than 20 states of the U.S. Visits from 9 embassies. More than 50 years of experience.



Programing Includes:

- Personalized Spanish Classes
- Homestay with Mexican Family
- Weekend Excursions
- Cultural Activities

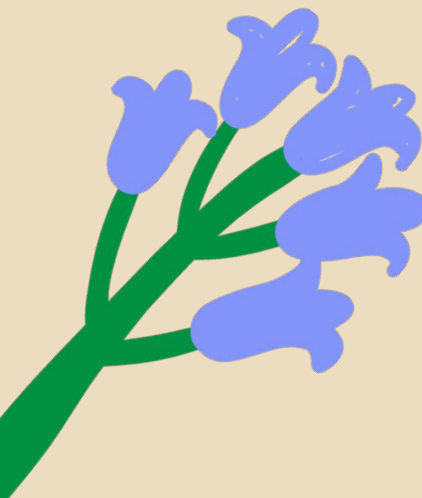




Cuernavaca

- **Name Origin:** Derived from the Nahuatl word *Cuauhnáhuac*, meaning "Place near the forest" or "surrounded by trees"
- **Nickname:** The "City of Eternal Spring" named for its warm, stable climate.
- **Elevation:** About 5,000 feet above sea level.
- **Temperature:** Average daily highs range from 75°F to 85°F year-round.
- **Population:** Round 370,000 in the city and over 1 million in the metro area.
- **Travel Time:** About a 1.5-hour drive or bus ride from Mexico City International Airport (MEX).
- **Major Attractions:**
 - Palacio de Cortés: A 16th-century palace built by Hernán Cortés, featuring murals by Diego Rivera.
 - Cuernavaca Cathedral: A historic 16th-century Franciscan monastery compound designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





Travel Information

Mexico Course Dates

- UM Spring Break 2027 March 5- 14
- Students will miss Friday classes 3/5

Lodging

- Homestay with local Mexican family
- Two students with each family

Travel to Mexico

- Group departure option from DTW

Food

- Most meals provided by homestay families
- Meals during weekend excursions and on air travel days not included

Travel Documents

- Passport w/ 6 months validity
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SAMPLE SCHEDULE

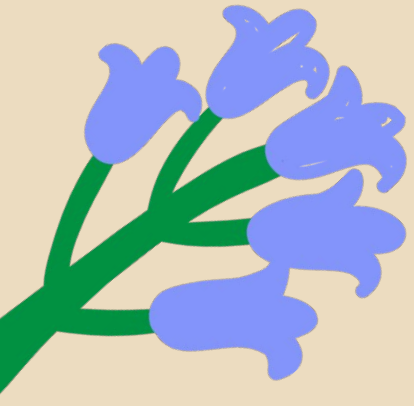
09:00 – 09:50	- Spanish Class
09:50 – 10:00	- Break
10:00 – 10:50	- Spanish Class
10:50 – 11:10	- Break
11:10 – 12:30	- Conference: Health and Wellbeing
11:30 – 14:00	- Visit: Public Health Center- private clinic
14:00 – 17:00	- Lunch and time spent with the Mexican family
17:00 – 19:00	- Visit : Community Center for Mental Health & Addictions





Language Considerations

- Spanish language classes are a major component of the course with 2 hours of language classes daily based on current language level.
 - Although prior knowledge of Spanish is not required, students must be willing to actively engage in language classes and make a best effort to practice their Spanish and engage with their homestay family and locals.
 - English translation will not always be available during all activities. If you currently have no or limited Spanish skills, you should consider whether you have the patience, flexibility, and willingness to navigate this context.
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Homestay Accommodations

- Students will live with a local homestay family with two students assigned to each family.
- The Mexican culture is highly relational. Your homestay family will be eager to engage with you. You may not have as much alone time as you are accustomed to and will need to be respectful of family norms.
- Meals will be based on the local diet, and students should expect to primarily eat Mexican food.
Vegetarian options will be available, but if you have other strict dietary restrictions, you need to discuss them with the program staff in advance



Financial Considerations

What the SSW covers:

- Most meals
- Transportation in-country
- Lodging accommodations
- Travel health insurance
- Most in-country programming and events
- Weekend excursion

These costs are about \$2,100 per student, which the SSW subsidizes for every participant



Financial Considerations

Estimated student cost - Around \$1,300- 1,450 + personal expenses

- Program Fee \$250
- Plane ticket purchase ~\$900
- Travel clinic costs (no required vaccinations)
- Personal expenses-meals, souvenirs, airport transportation ~\$150-300

Limited need-based financial aid available

- Application due in November with notifications before the decision deadline
- Need-based financial aid will **not** cover all costs

Passport - Recommended 6 months of validity beyond trip end date

- A passport grant is available for first-time international travelers!





Program Eligibility

- Open to:
 - Online & residential MSW students in any curriculum track or pathway
 - MSIL students
 - Pre-MSW students in the Ph.D. program
 - All students regardless of citizenship
 - Students already participating in an SSW-funded international experience are **not** eligible to participate
 - Students who graduate before April 2027 are ineligible
 - Students **cannot** participate in both the Mexico & S. Africa courses
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South Africa Information Session

Wednesday, December 9

12:00-1:30 PM EST

1636 SSWB & Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)



- Students who graduate in August 2027 **are eligible** for the S. Africa course
- MSIL students are **ineligible** for the S. Africa course
- If you are not accepted to the Mexico course, you **can** apply for S. Africa
- Once a student accepts a slot in the Mexico course, they **cannot** later apply for S. Africa

Application

- [Global Course Extension webpage](#) - OGA website
- [M-Compass - U-M application portal for study abroad](#)
- Application questionnaire, short & long answer questions:
 - Any previous travel experience (not required!)
 - Personal statement
 - Potential challenges and personal preparation
- Resume or CV
- One (1) Recommendation letter

**Application Deadline: Sunday, October 4 at 11:59 PM
ET**

Application Timeline

*October 4-
November 12*

**Application Review
and Interviews**

November 22

**Financial Aid apps
due to OGA**

December 2

**Deadline for
students to
commit/decline**

November 13

**Decisions sent to
students & Financial
Aid apps open**

November 26

**Financial Aid
decisions sent to
students**





Global Social Work Poster Fair

Wednesday, September 30

12:30-1:30 PM EST

The lower level of the SW building

- The Global Social work Poster Fair have our SW students that have attended the Global independent study to share their learnings through posters
 - The poster will be presented like a art exhibition style for students to walk by and visit
 - If you are interested please do walk by and have a look, Ice cream will also be shared out during the event
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Global Independent Study Information Session

Wednesday, October 7

12:00-1:30 PM EST

2629 SSWB

[RSVP Here](#)



- Information session about the Global Independent Study (GIS)
- The Global Independent Study offer SSW students the ability to pursue a global social work project in an international location outside of the US
- If you are interested in the Global Independent Study please sign up to the information session and learn more about it!



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Questions

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