

HERITAGE ETHNOGRAPHY FIELD SCHOOL

Comments from 2009 Student Evaluations

I would absolutely recommend the OSEA program to other students. I believe I benefitted greatly from the experience. OSEA made it possible to accomplish many things in a short period of time, and presented many approaches to field work in the Yucatán so that students walked away with a much broader understanding of the area, the people, and the possibilities for their own future research – all in addition to a completed research project! OSEA provides students with an amazing experience as well as the opportunity to do hands-on field research.

The most note worthy experience was when people who I interviewed really opened up to me and told me very personal stories. At that point I knew that I was making people feel comfortable enough to trust me.



I felt encouraged to participate and as though my opinions were important. I was really happy with the dynamics of the group. The students worked together very well and everyone was very contributive to the discussions. The instructors treated us with respect and took the time to listen to what each one of us had to say. Rather than a teacher/student atmosphere, I felt as though we were all equals, and that we all had the chance to contribute whenever relevant.

The guidance I received for creating and conducting a research project was ample in allowing me to conduct the project I desired. Everything from the stress of detail on the research proposals, to the time and effort Sarah put in to help me create a survey, to the fact that Quetzil's and Sarah's door was always open to offer assistance were all aspects of the OSEA experience that were meaningful on a educational and personal level. The desire to see the students succeed and enjoy themselves shined from the guidance that was given.



The OSEA program was a great way to start doing fieldwork. I was in a supportive environment yet had the freedom to make my own decisions and do my research as I thought was best. The progression of the classes and close group environment to some group time and some time to work on projects to then just time for our projects was helpful and productive. It was really neat for Quetzil to have such strong connections there and for everyone in the town to know somewhat of what we were doing. Pisté is an amazing place to do fieldwork. The people are so friendly, open and helpful. It was a great environment to begin fieldwork. It is small enough to not be overwhelming and large enough to have plenty of people to talk to and always have more that you could do.

See Heritage Ethnography on YouTube & FB Groups



This experience was one of the most memorable of my life, and, as I hope I have made clear, I haven't had much to complain about. You were accessible and helpful instructors, and good and thoughtful friends. I could not possibly ask for a better introduction to "doing" ethnography, or to the people of Pisté. Thank you for this, and believe me, I not only would recommend your program to others, I already have!

Excursions are always fun – you can't go swimming too often, I don't think! It would have been interesting to have had more excursions in and around Pisté. I think it was very important that the students were able to have group activities together, in that these helped to emphasize that students were encouraged to be independent, rather than isolated.

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