Program Overview

The Mayan Language Institute (Virtual) is a 6-week online program to train students in either Kaqchikel or K’iche’ Maya, two of the most widely-spoken Mayan languages in contemporary Guatemala. It is organized in collaboration between the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University and the non-profit foundation Proyecto Lingüístico Francisco Marroquín in Antigua, Guatemala in close collaboration with the Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University and the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies at the University of Kansas. Participants may enter at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels of either language. Each one enrolls in one language course focused on grammar and vocabulary and one content course exploring the cultural roots of the language and enabling students to practice their skills in contextualized settings. All classes are taught through collaboration between Tulane faculty and native-speaking Guatemalan instructors. The program’s notably low student to teacher ratio (a maximum of 4:1) provides constant opportunities for individualized learning and guided practice. Daily classes combine language immersion activities, lectures, one-on-one conversations, guest speakers and virtual excursions. The intensive nature of these classes, combined with students’ daily interactions with native speakers, enables them to enhance their language skills rapidly while forming relationships with the Indigenous peoples who sustain them.

Courses Offered:

All students enroll in 2 courses for a total of 6 Tulane credits transferable to other institutions.

**Kaqchikel**
- ANTH 6870: Kaqchikel Maya Culture (3 credits) AND
- ANTH 6840: Beginning Kaqchikel Language (3 credits) OR
- ANTH 7570: Intermediate Kaqchikel Language (3 credits) OR
- ANTH 7580: Advanced Kaqchikel Language (3 credits)

**K’iche’**
- ANTH 6860: K’iche’ Maya Culture (3 credits) AND
- ANTH 6845: Beginning K’iche’ Language (3 credits) OR
- ANTH 6850: Intermediate K’iche’ Language (3 credits) OR
- ANTH 6855: Advanced K’iche’ Language (3 credits)

**Kaqchikel/K’iche’ Maya Culture** is a 3-credit course designed to equip students to utilize the language within the cultural context in which it developed. Through lectures, demonstrations, virtual excursions, and interactive activities, students learn about the history of the Maya peoples, the development of Maya language and writing, the structures and norms of Maya societies, and the traditions, practices, and beliefs that shape Maya understandings of the world. Topics introduced range from the ancient glyphic writing system to contemporary milpa and weaving practices to the Maya day count and the surrounding rituals. Though the course incorporates occasional guest lectures delivered in Spanish or English, students dedicate the majority of class time to interactions with the Guatemalan instructors, who provide intimate firsthand knowledge into the experiences of Maya peoples. Students’
performance is assessed according to participation, weekly written assignments, a final report, and a final presentation all in the target language. Through their final project (report and presentation), focused on some aspect of Maya culture or history, students connect their new language skills to some aspect of their own research interests.

**Instructors:**

Kaqchikel
- Faculty Lead: Dr. Judith Maxwell, Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Tulane University
- Lead Instructor (Guatemala): Mtra. Ambrocia Cuma Chávez, Adjunct Lecturer, Tulane University

K’iche’
- Faculty Lead: Ms. Mareike Sattler, Adjunct Lecturer, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University and Senior Lecturer, Vanderbilt University
- Additional U.S. Faculty:
  - Mr. Malcolm Botto, Adjunct Instructor, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University and Program Coordinator, International Study Programs, Brigham Young University
- Lead Instructor (Guatemala): Mtro. Manuel Tahay

**Schedule:**
- Orientation Dates: week of June 8, 2020
- Daily Class Schedule beginning June 15 to July 24, 2020
  - Language classes: 10:00am-1:30pm CDT, Monday through Friday
    - 3 1-hour sessions with 15-minute breaks
      - 1 1-hour Grammar lecture by U.S. Faculty
      - 2 1-hour demonstration and practice sessions with Guatemalan Instructors
    - Instruction delivered via Canvas, Zoom, and/or Google Hangouts when necessary
  - Culture classes: 2:15pm-4:30pm CDT, Monday through Friday
    - 2 1-hour sessions with a 15-minute break
      - Lectures, presentations, demonstrations, virtual excursions followed by discussions in target language
      - Some guest lectures/presentations may be asynchronous
    - Instruction delivered via Canvas and Zoom and/or Google Hangouts when necessary

**Contact Hours Analysis**

Language Class- 100 % synchronous, 100% Target Language
- 3 1-hour sessions per day = 3 hours/day
- 3 hours/day X 5 days= 15 hours/week
- 15 hours/week X 6 weeks = 90 hours total
Culture Class – 80-90% synchronous, 85% Target Language (*Some presentations may be in English or Spanish to accommodate beginners and enable both K’iche’ and Kaqchikel students to participate)

- 2 1-hour sessions per day
- 2 hours/day X 5 days = 10 hours/week
- 10 hours/week X 6 weeks = 5 = 60 hours total
- 85% of 60 hours total in target language = 51 hours in target language

Total Program Hours

- Language Classes = 90 hours
- Culture Classes = 51 hours
- TOTAL CONTACT HOURS = 141 hours

**Program Cost**

Academic Program Fee: $4,000

There are no Housing/Logistics fees associated with this program for the Summer 2020 virtual program.

**More Information**

To learn more about the program, contact Hannah Palmer sclassum@tulane.edu or Valerie McGinley vmcgmar@tulane.edu.