

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, SCHEDULES, AND PERSONNEL

MAYAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (VIRTUAL): KAQCHIKEL

SUMMER 2021

June 14 – July 23, 2021

This document contains more detailed information about the structure of courses, schedules and key dates, and program personnel. **Students should review it fully and carefully prior to the program start date.** Please direct all questions to the Program Manager, Dr. Hannah Palmer at sclassum@tulane.edu or (504) 862-8629.

LANGUAGE COURSES

Each student will be enrolled in ONE of the following courses. Their placement will depend upon their language experience and/or proficiency and will be determined by the Faculty Director prior to the Program Start Date. Placement may fluctuate somewhat during the first week of classes, as instructors become more familiar with students' abilities.

ANTH 6840: Beginning Kaqchikel Language (3 credits) OR
ANTH 7570: Intermediate Kaqchikel Language (3 credits) OR
ANTH 7580: Advanced Kaqchikel Language (3 credits)

CULTURE AND SOCIETY COURSE

All students will be enrolled in ANTH 6870: Kaqchikel Maya Culture (3 credits). This course seeks 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. The course incorporates occasional guest lectures delivered in Spanish or English, but also enables students to interact more intimately 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 (see syllabus for details). 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.

COURSE OVERLAP

Students should expect a great deal of overlap between the Language and Culture and Society courses. They will encounter discussions of Mayan practices, norms, cosmologies, etc. during the "Language" sessions and will put their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge into practice during "Culture and Society" course sessions. Students should be prepared and open to this fluidity.

PROGRAM COLLABORATION

Kaqchikel students will occasionally share an afternoon lecture or extracurricular activity with students enrolled in the partner K'iche' program. They should make a note of joint meetings listed on their syllabi, as these may require an unusual Zoom link, a shift in the schedule, etc.

PEDAGOGY

The Kaqchikel program espouses a full-immersion, participatory model of language learning. Except for a daily grammar lecture, all language instruction takes place in Kaqchikel through modeling and repetition. Learning is largely aural/oral, and students are asked to engage with the material without the mediation of a pen and notebook. This model can be uncomfortable for students accustomed to the traditional classroom, so students should arrive prepared to stretch their comfort zones.

CONTACT HOURS

This program provides 150 contact hours of language instruction (25 hrs/week). The vast majority will be delivered via synchronous instruction.

SCHEDULE

Classes meet daily Mondays-Fridays between June 14 and July 23, 2021 according to the schedule below. All times are listed in Central Daylight Time; students in other time zones should make the proper accommodations to attend classes at appointed times.

Block 1: Language

9:00-10:00 am CDT: Session 1
10:00 – 10:15 am CDT: Break 1
10:15 – 11:15 am CDT: Session 2
11:15 – 11:30 am CDT: Break 2
11:30 am – 12:30 pm CDT: Session 3

12:30 – 1:30 pm CDT: LUNCH BREAK

Block 2: Culture and Society Courses

1:30 – 2:30 pm CDT: Session 1
2:30 – 2:45 pm CDT: Break 1
2:45 – 3:45 pm CDT: Session 2

Schedule Changes: The daily schedule and itinerary will be determined by Faculty Director in consultation with local instructors. In some cases, they may propose slight modifications in the schedule above to accommodate guest speakers, special events, etc. Any changes to the schedule above will be communicated during class discussions and ideally reaffirmed via email. If students have questions about or conflicts with a proposed change, they should feel free to reach out to the Faculty Director, cc'ing the Program Manager.

DATES

- Orientation: Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 3:00pm CDT
The orientation session will be held via Zoom and will be recorded and posted to the [Program Website](#). If you cannot attend the live orientation, you should alert the Program Manager in advance and make plans to watch the full orientation prior to the Program Start Date.
- Program Start Date: Monday, June 14, 2021
- Program End Date: Friday, July 23, 2021

Due dates and Tests: Students should consult their course syllabi for other important dates, including tests, project deadlines, etc.

PROGRAM PERSONNEL

Listed below are the names, titles, contact information, and job descriptions for key program personnel. Students are expected to read thoroughly any correspondence that originates from one of these individuals, as it may contain important information for Program participation.

Program Manager

Hannah Palmer

sclassum@tulane.edu

(504) 862-8629

Hannah Palmer is in charge of program planning and administration. Her duties include applications, enrollment and registration, and billing. She is the chief liaison with our Guatemalan Partner Institution, Kakaw.

Stone Center Director of Planning and Management/Tulane FLAS Co-Coordinator

Valerie McGinley

vmcgm@tulane.edu

Valerie McGinley oversees Tulane FLAS awards and assists with program planning and management.

Faculty Director

Judith Maxwell

maxwell@tulane.edu

Professor Maxwell oversees academic content for all levels of Kaqchikel. She designs course syllabi and trains and oversees Guatemalan instructors. She is the instructor of record for all courses.

Who to contact:

Prior to the Program Start Date, all questions, except those concerning language placement, should be directed to the Program Manager. Questions regarding language placement should be directed to the Faculty Director.

After the Program Start Date, questions regarding academic content, including grades, should be directed to the Faculty Director. Questions regarding billing, registration, transcripts, or any other administrative aspect of the Program should be directed to the Program Manager.