

OSEA Heritage Ethnography Field School, summer 2009

Evaluation Highlights

Evaluate and comment on the guidance and supervision you received while conducting and completing your ethnographic research project?

Dr. Castañeda and Ms. Taylor were always available and willing to assist me with any question or concern I had while conducting my research. Ms. Taylor was quick and precise in helping us solve our dilemmas and her contributions were outstanding and invaluable. The seminars presented me with information ranging from the history of the region to the theoretical concepts of heritage and those applicable to anthropological research. Regular hours set up by Ms. Taylor allowed time for personal assistance while we conducted our projects.

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 an educational and personal level. The desire to see the students succeed and enjoy themselves shined from the guidance that was given.

I found the seminars to be very helpful and relevant, and have been overall pleased with the content and execution. I found the seminars interesting and I really enjoyed the discussion-based learning. 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 instructors carried out the seminars in a very organized and structured manner. They did a very good job keeping us on track, stimulating our thinking, and communicating concepts. I feel as though I have learned a whole semester's worth of information in the past three weeks!

Please assess the way OSEA has created, structured, and handled the homestay experience in general and with regard to your own experience.

In regards to my home-stay experience, my experience was different than the other students. When I was in the process of changing families, I feel Sarah was very supportive during the process. If Sarah was not there to reinforce and support my desire to change families the situation might have been different. However, I do appreciate the opportunity I was given to

change families. I think the final ice cream party we had with all the families was very nice and that everyone appreciated it and had a great time.

The only negative experience that I can think of so far would be when I got sick with a stomach bug. The OSEA staff was very caring and understanding during this time, and allowed for me to recuperate. Overall, they seem genuinely concerned with the health of all students, and are very attuned to our needs.