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SBS348-01

Dr. Mendoza

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**End Term Self-Assessment:**

**1.**  The main reason that make me took this class was because I need it as a requirement and my whole perspective changed after a few weeks. I learn that it is important to learn about your roots in order to understand your history. It is interesting that when I attended school in México I never learn about the Maya civilization and its importance. Dr. Mendoza taught me the importance of the Maya through all his lectures, assignments and videos. His teaching technique help me a lot in the process of my career because now I can understand certain Maya events with literature and create connection between them. One of my favorite literatures pieces in Spanish is “La noche boca arriba” by Julio Cortázar and this story talks about a sacrifice scene and the significance of time. After this class I find a different meaning to the story and I love that. In other words taking this Maya Civilization course was a good decision.

**2.** I have attended to all classes in order to learn and complete all the assignments. Attendance plays an important role in understanding and learning new topics. The labs that we completed were helpful because we had a deeper understanding on the subject and we learned through interaction between students. And after completing the assignments we were required to write about them and this help me to express my ideas and share my knowledge from the activities in the classroom. All these activities and writing requirements were useful because it helps students to refresh their memory the same way it help me to remember and complete every single assignment.

**3.** I don’t really use ilearn forum because I have a few classmates in my other classes and we try to talk to each other as a way to understand the assignments by sharing our ideas. I know every one makes their own decisions but I don’t have any preference in using ilearn forums because there are occasion that sometimes people do not log in and it’s hard to find an answer.

**4.** For my final project presentation I am talking about the importance of one of the three sisters which is the corn. The corn plays an important role in the Maya civilization so the important terms in this research they will be the following:

**History of corn**

**Corn and the Maya**

**Corn Agriculture**

**Corn Influences**

**Corn Meals**

**The importance of corn in the present**

**Mexican and Central America Traditions**

During this research I have found that corn plays an important role in many cultures and this element it can be an important resource that helps people in some way to create different meals and survive.

**5.** When I first started to look for a topic I was a little bit concerned because I didn’t know what topic I should choose for my presentation. But then I started to think about gastronomy and one of my favorites dishes are tamales. And especially around this time of the year when the weather is cold and windy Mexican families tend to make tamales. So tamales were my topic and I wan it to learn more about them and present my research findings to the class. On the other hand I had to learn to make them by helping my mom and taking some to class will be a great idea. So this assignment will be fun and hard to make it but I am willing to do it. I had all this ideas in my mind and I still have them because I know that most of the people they haven’t tried this type of tamales before and I want to share their deliciousness with them. I have some references about this topic:

* Taube, K. (1989). The maize tamale in classic maya diet, epigraphy, and art. *American Antiquity*, *54*(1), 31-51.
* Powell, J. (2004). The trouble with blood. *Archaeology*, *57*(6), 34.
* Santini, C. (2006). The people of the corn. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, *30*(4), 8
* Duarte, C. (2007). Maya food and photography. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, *31*(4), 8

**6.** The most interesting key concepts about the Maya were their obsession with corn and blood. But the concept of corn is better to explain because I don’t want to give specific details on blood and sacrifices, war etc. Corn was very important because as the Popul Vuh says they believed that they were made out of the corn and shaping their heads as a corn is interesting. With this project I want to find more information about the importance of corn and its significance because corn is very important in our culture. I want to learn about the history of corn, also about gastronomy and tamales. All this information will be reflected in my presentation.

**7.** In this class the lab activity that I liked the most was drawing my name in Maya. It was fun to look for the sounds in order to draw my whole name. Also having the opportunity to select certain symbols it was fun. I think the one that I didn’t like the most was the Patolli game because I could understand the game and also because I lost. All these activities help us to understand different topics by putting our art skills to work. One thing that we should if done was to write a classmate name in Maya and try to guess whose name was it.

**8.** I think presentations are very helpful because doing a research can give you a broader idea and have a better understanding on the subject. Also you have the opportunity to select your own topic and by presenting it you are teaching the class an interesting area that maybe Dr. Mendoza didn’t explain as much as we want it to.