

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

EPIC ADVANTAGE: : Archive Research in Luis Angel Arango

Library, Bogota Colombia

Dates: May 12 - June 10, 2018

Leaders: Rodolfo Guzmán

Application Deadline: November 6, 2017



Description of Experience and Research:

Cultural Airwaves: Teaching Rural Communities in Colombia How to Read and Write.

Between 1947 and 1994 in the countryside outside of Bogotá, Colombia a radio-based school system was established for the rural communities. Acción Cultural Popular (ACPO) as this project was named, had the purpose of integrating rural communities with the national discourse, improving their economical and spiritual lives while teaching basic reading and writing. To carry out this project, they produced newspapers, workbooks, and audio programs. Letters from the farming communities to the radio instructors also are found in the archives of Acción Cultural Popular.

The main purpose of this collaborative research is for the students to study the archives of Acción Cultural Popular that are located in the Luis Angel Arango Library, in Bogotá. Each student will be in charge of reading through and analyzing one particular topic related to the radio program such as listener's letters, newspapers edited by the project, audio programs and the reading and writing booklets distributed directly to the farmers. The faculty member and students will then visit the town of Sutatenza (3 hours outside of Bogota) where the radio station was based as well as some of the communities where this program was implemented to interview people who were involved with the radio station and people who participated in this program. During this month-long collaborative research program we expect to determine the ideological philosophy of this educational program and the type of the "ideal" rural community that this program sought to achieve.

Location:

The program will be based in Bogota, the capital and largest city in Colombia. It is the political, economic, administrative, industrial, artistic, cultural, and sports center of the country. The city is located in the center of Colombia, on a high plateau known located in the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes Mountains. It is 8,660 feet above sea level and the city is subdivided into 20 localities.

Expectations for Students:

In this four-week-long experience, students not only will be immersed in a linguistic and cultural environment where they will improve their conversation, reading and writing skills in Spanish, but more importantly will learn how to work with primary sources for scholarly endeavors. Students will learn how to assess and evaluate documents relating to research in the field of humanities. Students will learn how one particular social-cultural manifestation (a curricular and pedagogical project) can contain information related to the larger social-political landscape. Fields trips will illustrate the Latin American differences between urban and rural settings in terms of political participation, quality of life, and access to basic resources (educational, medical, etc.). At the end of the program each student should be able to produce a paper and a 20-minute presentation about their own topic and the research experience itself.

Faculty:

Rodolfo Guzmán is Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies at Earlham College. Rodolfo's research interests include the cultural and political productions of the Criollos (a socio-racial stratum that originated during colonial times in the Americas), the Afro-Hispanic experience, the Indigenous narratives of the Andean region, and the deconstruction of the historical discourse through new historical novels and popular performances. Rodolfo has lead cultural immersion programs in Mexico, Costa Rica and established the current Earlham abroad program in Ecuador.

Dates of Experience:

May 12 - June 10, 2018

Travel To and From Site:

Students will travel independently to and from Bogota and faculty member will meet them on site.

Application: Applications can be received from students starting on Oct. 15, 2017. Application window closes on Nov 6, 2017.

Link to Application: [Apply in Handshake](#)

Preparation: Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2018 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility: Rising sophomores, rising juniors, or rising seniors may apply. Students that are not native Spanish speakers are required to have taken at least 301 level of Spanish and all students should feel comfortable spending long hours reading in Spanish.

Cost to Student: This experience is funded as an EPIC Advantage opportunity. Funding covers passport, visa, travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Additional personal expenses will be covered by the student.

Program plans subject to change.