

Vecinos

The Baja Studies Certificate Program, similar to a minor, offers students an opportunity to pursue a coherent course of study on Baja, California while continuing their studies in a major field. This will enable students to bring intellectual coherence to selecting courses outside their own majors.

Furthermore, by focusing intensely on the peninsula of Baja, California, students will develop a keen appreciation of the rich connections between history, politics, economics, cultures, arts, sciences, and the humanities. They will gain an increased awareness of our neighbor to the south which will be valuable for personal, professional, and advanced educational purposes.

Most of the courses will be offered under Southwestern College's Plan A for an Associate Degree. By choosing 18 units that focus on Baja, the student will earn a certificate in Baja Studies in addition to completing the General Education requirements for Plan A. The selected courses are ones that are currently listed in Southwestern College's catalog of courses. Minor adjustments would need to be made to the content of the courses so that the major focus of study is Baja.

Faculty from various disciplines have expressed interest in developing the Baja Studies Program. Our plan is to tear down discipline barriers and to implement a team approach to the planning, instructional, and evaluative stages of this project.

In addition to on-campus coursework, the Baja Studies Certificate Program will offer a Service Learning component with weekend participation in community projects in Baja. The projects will be relevant to the content of the courses taken by the students.

The final component of the Baja Studies Certificate Program will be a month of study at an institute of higher education in Baja, California. Sites being investigated are Tijuana, Ensenada, Mexicali, Tecate, and La Paz. In addition to courses in the Spanish language, courses will be offered in English that comply with the General Education requirements of Plan A.

By combining on-campus coursework, Service Learning in Baja communities, and a summer study abroad component, the student who earns a certificate in Baja Studies will be personally, professionally, and

educationally prepared to confront issues that impact both sides of the border. Since no other four -year institution or community college offers this program, the Baja Studies student will be in a position to take a leadership role on border issues within his/her chosen profession. By offering the Baja Studies Certificate Program, Southwestern College will greatly contribute to future solutions and innovations that will improve relations between San Diego and our neighbor to the south, Baja, California.

Baja Studies Course Proposals

Art 198	Web Design	Ruth Wallen
Art 139	Digital Photography	Ruth Wallen
Biology 145	Ecomundo: Ecology Concepts and Applications	Terry Thomas
Biology 146	Ecomundo: Field Studies in Ecology	Marjie Stinson
Biology 147	Ecomundo: Field Studies in Marine Biology	
Biology 148	Ecomundo: Field Studies of Marine Vertebrates	
Biology 109	Ecomundo: Field Studies in Natural History	
Communication 142	Oral Histories of Baja	Linda Hensley
EHMT 105	Ecomundo: Environmental Technology And Issues	Robert Evangelista
English 274	Literature of the Border and Baja California	Susan Luzarro
Health	AIDS Needs No Passport	Anita Holt
Spanish 205	Intermediate Conversation and Writing On Baja California	Deana Alonso Angie Stuart

Robert Evangelista

From: Kelly/Widmer [patron@home.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 1999 7:22 PM
To: revangelista@swc.cc.ca.us
Subject: letter

Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Road
Bonita, Ca.

May 17, 1999

Dear Robert,

Thank you for the support and energy you have contributed to the Baja Studies Program. Your expertise in Environmental Studies as well as your ability to maneuver through the process to establish new curriculum is a great asset to the program.

During our first semester of planning, you have brought innovative ideas to the table and have become an integral part of our team. I appreciate the collegiality and spirit that you have contributed to our brainstorming sessions. I look forward to your continued input as we break down our discipline walls to create an interdisciplinary course of studies for our border community.

Based on the groundwork we have done so far, I feel that Environmental Technology and Biology will be the lead courses in our Baja Studies Program. It looks like you and Terry Thomas will be the leaders in establishing a course of study that will enable our students to take leadership roles on border issues within their chosen fields.

The Baja Studies program is truly an exciting and innovative approach to border education, and with your contribution I'm convinced we can implement it with great success.

Thank you and I look forward to your continued expertise and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kelly
Coordinator, Baja Studies



Governing Board
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Serafin A. Zasqueta, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

21 May, 1999

Ken Zion, So Cal Ed>Net Environmental Technology Director; So Cal Western PETE Coordinator
3815 Cedar Ave
Long Beach, CA 90807

Subject: Baja Studies Certificate Program at Southwestern College

Southwestern College (SWC) is creating a Baja Studies Certificate Program, called Vecinos, to integrate the knowledge, culture and information of the three Californias: Baja California North, Baja California South, and the State of California. I have attached the draft working document of the group of interested professors working under the lead of Patricia Kelly in our Language Arts and International Studies Division.

At the present time, eleven (11) instructors will offer courses throughout the curriculum. Three courses will provide an environmental perspective: Environmental Technology de los Californias, Environmental Biology de los Californias, and Natural History of Baja's Plants and Animals. In other words, this will be a complete package for interested students.

Furthermore, SWC is in the process of articulation with a Baja University concerning this program.

With our main campus approximately 6 miles from the international border with Baja California, a satellite campus at the border, large Spanish and Mexican-American Studies programs, and approximately a 65% Chicano student population, Southwestern College is well suited to join our brothers and sisters to the south to integrate the educational process.

I would appreciate any input or support from Ed>Net and the Western Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE) for the development of the environmental aspects of this program.

Sincerely,

Robert Evangelista
Professor, Environmental Technology Program

CC: Patricia Kelly, Baja Studies Certificate Program Coordinator
attachments