

Course Considerations

Proposals

- Talk to your department chair – It’s best to confirm early departmental approval of your participation.
- Adjust your class calendar – Taos offers condensed, focused term ranging from 8-20 class days.
- Choose a course that will garner strong student enrollment
 - What will make students want to enroll in your class?
 - Does the course fulfill major/minor or UC credit?
 - Are you willing to offer Ways of Knowing credit?
- Plan for small classes – Enrollment is usually less than twelve students.
- Be creative in planning field trips and experiential learning activities—See attached list.
- Don’t be afraid to assign course readings and assignments you feel are necessary—It is acceptable to expect your students to complete some readings or assignments prior to arrival in Taos.
- Utilize multimedia and research elements into your course – The Taos campus includes a full library, computer lab, and classrooms outfitted with multimedia equipment based on your needs.
- Take advantage of the unique opportunities the SMU-in-Taos campus has to offer—It’s not every day that you are in the beautiful, culturally rich mountains of New Mexico.
- When estimating your budget and field trips, inquire about educational discounts for student groups.
- Consider applying for an SMU-in-Taos curriculum development grant.



Course Management

- Campus Resources
 - Library with full-time librarian
 - Classroom technologies, including networked touch-screen “Mondo Pads.”
 - Faculty Office with shared space, copier, telephone and supplies
 - Brand new Miller Learning Center
- Field Trips
 - 12-passenger vans are available for faculty to drive students on class trips. Faculty must complete the Engaged Driving course in Dallas first.
 - Group or educational discounts are often available for student groups.



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Student Experiences

CFB 3381 Leadership & Culture in the Southwest / SPAN 2401 Intermediate Spanish



“The experience in Taos was absolutely incredible. The small class sizes allowed us to deeply engage with the material and get to know our professors very well. The gorgeous setting in New Mexico made for a unique learning environment. We were able to take advantage of the rich culture in Taos by going on several field trips to art museums, historic sites, and natural landmarks to supplement our learning in the classroom. My favorite field trip was the Earthship Biotechure, a community of sustainable and completely off the grid homes. In addition to the academic side, nature trails on campus and hikes around the Taos Ski Valley provided the best kind of study break. Studying in Taos is something I would recommend to anyone.”

- Kierson McGriff

CEE 2322 Field Methods for Soil & Water

“Everything about my experience at Taos was enjoyable. The staff at the location were all so friendly and accommodating, the housing was comfortable, and the food was always delicious (the breakfast is incredible). But most importantly, the learning experience my professor and the other professors created for each of us was unique and hands on. On one of my field trips I hiked to an alpine lake at 11,000 ft elevation, and on another I toured the location of the setting of a book by a well-known author. I recommend every student that is considering going to Taos but is unsure to just GO. You will be so glad you did.”

- Rachel Masters



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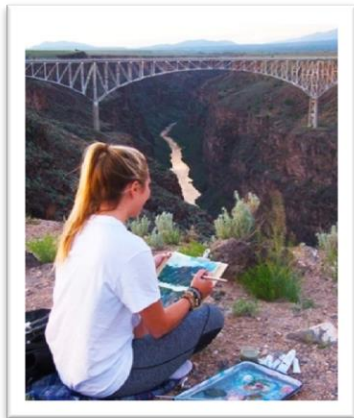


Field Trip Ideas

Local Points of Interest

Pot Creek Pueblo Site – Located on the SMU-in-Taos campus, this site was home to several hundred ancestral Puebloan peoples approximately seven hundred years ago. Pot Creek Pueblo has been the focus of excavations since 1957.

Taos Pueblo – Continuously inhabited for over 1,000 years, this living Native American community is designated both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a National Historic Landmark.



Rio Grande Gorge Bridge – The Gorge and the bridge spanning it represent impressive works of nature and engineering sure to inspire the artist, scientist, and wonderer in any observer.

KTAOS Solar Center – This national recognized live music venue not only hosts two popular radio stations, but is also solar-powered.

Talpa Garden Organic Farm – Harvest organic carrots, tomatoes, eggs and more while learning about sustainable practices at this local organic farm.



Pecos National Historic Park – This gateway to the Plains demonstrates to modern visitors the cultural exchange and geographic facets central to the region’s history.



Los Alamos National Laboratory & Bradbury Science Museum – The museum’s interactive exhibits trace the history of the WWII Manhattan Project. Arrange a private tour to learn about the laboratory’s current and historic research projects related to defense and technology.

Ghost Ranch & Georgia O’Keeffe Museum – Admire O’Keeffe’s work and the surrounding landscapes that inspired her and many others.

Kit Carson Home & Museum – The home and life of Kit Carson demonstrate the multicultural and dynamic events of the U.S. West.

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Bent House & Museum – The home of the first Governor of New Mexico offers a glimpse into a tumultuous period of New Mexican history, as well as 19th century artifacts and works of Taos artists.

E.L. Blumenschein Home & Museum – The home beautifully illustrates the lifestyle of Taos artists in the first half of the twentieth century, including works by famous Taos artists and beautiful antiques.

Taos Art Museum at Fechin House – The heart of the museum is a collection of paintings by the masters of the Taos Society of Artists, beginning with the arrival of Blumenschein and Phillips in 1898 through the 1930s.



Couse House – Visit studios of two of the founding members of the Taos Society of Artists. See original furnishings as well as New Mexican and Native American pottery, costumes and paintings in progress.

La Hacienda de los Martinez – One of the few Northern New Mexico style, late Spanish Colonial period “Great Houses” remaining in the American Southwest.

Earthships Biotechture – These beautifully sustainable houses are built from recycled materials and provide off-the-grid electricity, potable water, contained sewage treatment and sustainable food production.

New Buffalo – Discover the original commune spirit at this historic and evolving location.

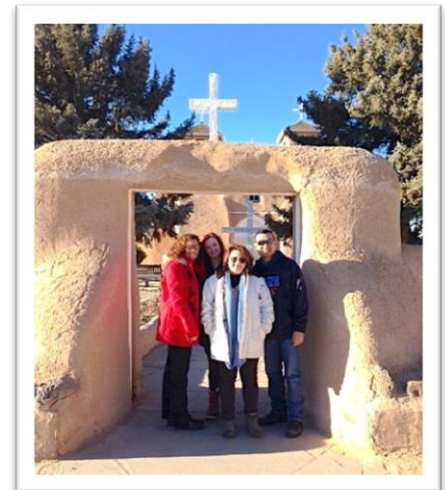


Taos Mountain Energy Bars – This successful energy bar company was founded by two Dallas natives, one of whom is an SMU Markets & Culture alum.

Santa Fe Opera – This musical theater production hall is internationally known for introducing new operas and drawing impressive talent.

San Francisco de Assisi Church – The traditional architecture of this active Catholic Church has inspired many an artist. Students enjoy volunteering to help re-mud the traditional adobe structure.

High Road and Santa Fe – including Las Trampas, Chimayo, Plaza in Santa Fe and Museum Hill



Still looking for more? We're happy to provide recommendations!

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