



International Capstone

Women and Development: Community based learning projects in Chiapas, Mexico

**Summer Term 2011
Travel: July 23—August 6, 2011**

Led by: Patricia Rumer, PSU Faculty

Chiapas is the poorest and least educated state in the Mexican republic but also one of the richest in natural resources. About one quarter of the population is of full or predominant Maya descent, and in rural areas many do not speak Spanish. The state suffers from the highest rate of malnutrition in Mexico, estimated to affect more than 40% of the population. Migration north from Chiapas has increased the past ten years and researchers now estimate that one out of ten persons lives either in the USA or on the northern Mexican border – the state has only 4% of Mexico's total population.

Students will spend two weeks in an immersion learning experience with women's community-based economic development projects in the San Cristobal de las Casas region. Through interactions with non-governmental organizations, Mexican government representatives, local researchers, and community leaders participants will learn how indigenous women are developing their own economic alternatives and how these collaborative efforts relate to the national and global economy.



**Applications & information
available on-line at:
<http://oia.pdx.edu/ea/>
E-mail: rumer@pdx.edu
edabroad@pdx.edu
Application Deadline: 4/15/11**