

Peru Program

Course Description

Program Dates: May 22 - June 6, 2010

Participants will learn how a rural community suffers and recovers from natural disasters amidst the normal conditions of extreme poverty. Students will learn about economic development in a rural setting and those factors that keep a community poor. This summer the program will expand its Ica work to include the two other communities in the Canyon which have been innovative in drip irrigation techniques for low-income farmers. During the program, students will also spend time in the Andean countryside as well as explore the site of Choquequirau, a ruin similar but much larger than Machu Pucchu, and much less visited.

[Click here to view a video about the program.](#)

See "[Roughing It](#)", a student review.

INS 522 Section 95: 3 credits

This program is a follow-up of UM's long-term and ongoing project in Ica, Peru, involving post-earthquake reconstruction and rural development in a very poor community. Students will engage in manual work to contribute to the village recovery. Students will engage in projects such as working on the village's water system, tilling the soil, milking cows, harvesting cotton, and cementing drainage ditches. In earning the villagers' confidence, students will be able then to investigate the economic foundations of the community and the roots of poverty on the fringe of one of the most affluent agro-export valleys of Peru.

Travel with an experienced UM professor

Professor Weisskoff lived in Highland Peru as a Visiting Professor in the 1970s. During that time, he taught in the provincial universities and led Peruvian students in manual labor projects with nearby Indian communities. In 2007 and 2008, Weisskoff traveled to Ica (coastal Peru) almost every 3 months as part of the University of Miami's Program in Environment and Development in Latin America. In March 2007, Weisskoff sponsored a Spring-break short course in Ica in which the students participated in an International Conference on Mudslides (which UM/PRENDE was sponsoring).