

Writing Place: Material Culture, Artifactual Literacies, and Place Rhetoric in Peru

June 18, 2016 – July 18, 2016

(all dates are tentative and subject to change)

Lima, Cuzco

PERU

PROGRAM:

Students will examine how physical locations produce messages about identity, class, and culture, during five weeks of instruction, study trips, and fieldwork. Having as a theme Andean culture at colonizing times (16th century), students will explore the conflictive blending of cultures found in places/spaces.

Lima, capital of the Spanish Empire (1535-1821), coastal/foggy city, gathers colonial sites, signature food, and art. Students will explore downtown Lima—the government location with Spanish influences—and archaeological sites (Pachacamac, Caral, and Pucllana). Students will be exposed to Peruvian cuisine, in street carts, fine restaurants, and cooking demonstrations. Students will visit markets of fine/affordable crafts and alpaca clothing.

Leaving Lima, students will fly east above the Andes toward Cuzco, capital of the Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest (1935). Cuzco carries both legacies: Catholic baroque designs completing the remnants of Inca temples, and colonial wooden balconies dressing Cuzco's old cobblestone streets—metaphoric and material colonization. The program includes visits to Andean culture gateways: Koricancha/cathedral; Sacsayhuaman; Sacred Valley (ruins/colorful market of Pisac and Ollantaytambo); Moray (agricultural terracing/water collection systems); Maras (salt mines); and Chinchero weaving community. It includes an eight-hour-hike day on the Inca Trail, the pedestrian stone pathway through the Andes, arriving to the citadel of Machu Picchu, the most visited archaeological site in South America, for another day trip. Students return to Cuzco by train, along the Urubamba River, and through a beautiful mountain landscape.

Students will imagine a past, and write with their bodies in a conscious way, as they walk around, and engage in the examination of texts (social and natural environments) and in the production of photographs.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Vanessa I. Rouillon | rouillvi@jmu.edu
WRTC

COURSE:

WRTC 342. Writing Place: Material Culture, Artifactual Literacies, and Place Rhetoric in Peru (3)

