ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES AT LAKE ATITLAN, GUATEMALA
June 26-July 24, 2014

ESP 101  Ecology, Nature & Society
ESP 155  Aquatic & Wetland Ecology

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For centuries the ecosystem of the lake, its watershed, and human populations existed in equilibrium.

Mayan communities:
TZUTUHIL
KAQCHICEL
KICHE
The unregulated development of last decades has led to rapid eutrophication of the lake.
CHANGE IN THE TROPHIC STATE

TRANSITION FROM OLIGOTROPHIC TO MESOTROPHIC

Cyanobacterial bloom, November 2009!!
Some 70,000 people rely on lake water as their drinking water source.
Marzo 2009
TODOS POR EL LAGO
MESA REDONDA

Unidos por el Lago Atitlán
ESP 101  Ecology, Nature & Society

- Lectures
- Discussions in smaller groups
- Talks by representatives from various organizations
ESP 155  Aquatic & Wetland Ecology

- (Lectures)
- Field trips – lake and wetland sampling
- Experiments
Water sampling along a water depth profile (down to 340 m) from the large vessel - together with the personnel from UVG lab at Solola
REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

ESP 101
- participation/discussion (20%),
- write-ups for scenarios (40%),
- final project, in the form of a teaching module for a K-12 classroom activity (40%)
  (pending final agreement, these will be used by Spanish Immersion classes in Cesar Chavez Elementary school in Davis).

ESP 155L
- project reports (55%)
- participation in all field trips and lab activities (30%)
- final presentation (15%) that is done as a science mini-conference.