

ANTH 179
The Anthropology of Mexico

Instructor: Professor R. González
Semester: Fall 2008
Classroom: CL 204
Meeting time: TTH 3:00-4:15 pm

Introduction

Conquest, commerce, and migration have made and remade contemporary Mexico. This course critically analyzes concepts underlying the idea and reality of the Mexican nation-state by examining its history, land, and people from anthropological perspectives. The course begins with a brief review of the pre-Hispanic period then focuses upon colonial, revolutionary, and contemporary periods in Mesoamerican history—periods from which modern Mexican society emerged.

We will begin with an overview of key 20th century works by Mexicans and North Americans who formulated analytical concepts, often with instrumental goals in mind (such as nation-building and economic development). The role of Mexico's indigenous people as subjects of anthropological inquiry and intervention will be an important theme for discussion. In the latter part of the course, we will review recent events—the 1968 massacre at Tlatelolco, the 1985 Mexico City earthquake, the economic crises of 1982 and 1996, "free" trade, guerrilla uprisings in Chiapas and Oaxaca, and migration, among others—that have prompted intellectuals and the public to rethink assumptions about contemporary Mexico. We will use the following texts, all of which are available at the campus bookstore:

Sons of the Shaking Earth by Eric Wolf
True Tales from Another Mexico by Sam Quinones
Nothing, Nobody by Elena Poniatowska
Zapotec Science by Roberto González

In addition, we will use a supplemental course reader available for purchase at Maple Press (at 481 E. San Carlos Street). All materials will be on reserve at King Library. Much of the course material will be covered during the lectures, so it is critical that you attend class and take detailed lecture notes. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Assignments and Weighting

Course grades will be based upon two mid-term examinations (on October 9 and November 20), a cumulative final examination (on December 17), and five unannounced quizzes:

Midterm 1	25% of course grade
Midterm 2	25% of course grade
Final exam	35% of course grade
Unannounced Quizzes	15% of course grade

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. No late assignments will be accepted unless student presents documentary evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments. No makeup exams will be given unless student presents documentary evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc.

Office Hours

Office hours are held at the following times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

I am also available by appointment if you are unable to meet at these times. All office hours are held in CL402G. You can contact me at roberto.gonzalez@sjsu.edu or by telephone at 924-5715.

Course Policies

Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Disabled students with special needs should make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of disability or if you need special arrangements in case of building evacuation, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible, or during office hours. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability.

Plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty will be reported to the University. The SJSU Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The SJSU academic integrity policies are located at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>.

Department Learning Objectives

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Grading Distribution

100-97 A+	89-87 B+	79-77 C+	69-67 D+
96 - 93 A	86-83 B	76-73 C	66-63 D
92 - 90 A-	82-80 B-	72-70 C-	>63F

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1 (Aug 26-28) Informational Class Meeting

Read: Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sept 2-4) Introduction

Read: Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapter 2

Week 3 (Sept 9-Sept 11) Mesoamerican Civilization I—Olmec, Maya, Zapotec and Mixtec Societies

Read: Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapters 3-4

Week 4 (Sept 16-Sept 18) Mesoamerican Civilization II—Toltec and Mexica Societies

Read: Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapters 5-7

Film: "Aztecs: Inside the Hidden Empire"

Week 5 (Sept 23-Sept 25) Conquest, Colonialism, and Early Capitalism in New Spain

Read: Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapters 8-9

Week 6 (Sept 30-Oct 2) "So Far from God, So Close to the United States"—Mexico and the U.S.

Read: *Howard Zinn, "We Take Nothing by Conquest, Thank God"

Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapter 10

Film: "La Ley de Herodes"

Week 7 (Oct 7-Oct 9) The 1910 Revolution and *Lo Mexicano*

Read: Eric Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, Chapter 11

*Rodolfo Stavenhagen, "The Indian Resurgence in Mexico"

Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "Introduction"

Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "The Ballad of Chalino"

MIDTERM 1—October 9

Week 8 (Oct 14-Oct 16) Megalopolis—Mexico City in Anthropological Perspective

Read: Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "Tepito"

Elena Poniatowska, *Nothing, Nobody*

Film: "Los Olvidados" (Part I)

Week 9 (Oct 21-Oct 23) Twentieth Century Modernization Projects

Read: Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "The Popsicle Kings"

Elena Poniatowska, *Nothing, Nobody*

Film: "Los Olvidados" (Part II)

Week 10 (Oct 28-Oct 30) Gender Roles in Contemporary Mexico

- Read: Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "Dead Women of Juárez"
Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "The Jotos of La Fogata"
Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "Telenovela"
Film: "Global Assembly Line"

Week 11 (Nov 4-Nov 6) Mass Culture, Migration, and NAFTA

- Read: Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "West Side Kansas Street"
Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "Nuevo Chupícuaro"

VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING NOVEMBER 11

Week 12 (Nov 13) Indigenous Communities, Past and Present

- Read: Roberto González, *Zapotec Science*, Chapters 1-2
Film: "Sacred Games" or "Oaxacan Hoops"

Week 13 (Nov 18-Nov 20) Ecology and Culture in Rural Mexico

- Read: Roberto González, *Zapotec Science*, Chapters 3-4

MIDTERM 2—November 20

Week 14 (Nov 25) The Last Campesino? Dilemmas in the Countryside

- Read: Roberto González, *Zapotec Science*, Chapters 5-6
Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "San Quintín"
Film: "Little Injustices"

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING NOVEMBER 27 - 28

Week 15 (Dec 2-Dec 4) Challenges to Neoliberalism—Zapatistas, APPO, and Resistance

- Read: Roberto González, *Zapotec Science*, Chapters 7-8
*Eric Ross, "La Coyuntura"
Film: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Week 16 (Dec 9) Mexican Futures—21st Century Porfiriato or New Civil Society?

- Read: *"Risking Corn, Risking Culture" by Claire Cummings
Sam Quinones, *True Tales from Another Mexico*, "Afterward"

FINAL EXAM—Wednesday, December 17 (2:45-5:00 pm) in regular class meeting room

*Articles marked with an asterisk are included in the course reader.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

CHEATING:

At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

PLAGIARISM:

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own.

Fall 2008 Class Schedule Information

v002

Monday, June 2, 2008

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Registration > Dropping a Class

Go to <http://my.sjsu.edu>

- Enter your SJSU ID and Password – you may now use your nine-digit SJSU ID to login to MySJSU. If you are a continuing student and have previously been given a User ID beginning with an uppercase W, you can continue to use this ID to log in.
- If you drop a class, you must do so prior to the time you submit payment to ensure that your registration fees are properly assessed.

Navigate to "Self Service" > Student center > Drop a class"

- Click on "Drop Classes"
- Click the checkbox next to each class you wish to drop and click "Drop Selected Classes."
- Review your selection and click "Finish Dropping."

Instructor Drops

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, they are not required to do so. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.**