

**San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 179: Anthropology of Mexico
Fall 2011 Semester**

Instructor:	Professor González
Office Location:	CL 459
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Office Hours:	MW 1:30 - 2:00 pm M 4:30 - 5:30 pm W 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Class Days/Time:	MW 12:00 - 1:15 pm
Classroom:	CL 310
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	N/A
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

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, migration, and rise of narcotrafficking among others—that have prompted intellectuals and the public to rethink assumptions about contemporary Mexico.

Departmental Goals

The goals of the anthropology department include helping students to:

- learn about the culture concept and significant findings in anthropology

- examine interconnections between human culture and biology
- develop awareness of past and present cultures
- understand the multicultural aspects of contemporary society
- make good use of social science data and scholarly literature
- increase knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- recognize anthropology's relevance in addressing social issues

Required Texts/Readings

Required books for this course include the following:

The Mexico Reader edited by Gilbert Joseph and Timothy Henderson

True Tales from Another Mexico by Sam Quinones

Drug War Zone by Howard Campbell

Zapotec Science by Roberto González

In addition to these books, we will use numerous articles from journals which are available online (see pp. 5-6 of this syllabus). Hard copies of three additional articles will be distributed in class.

Classroom Protocol

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 strictly prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. During exams and quizzes, any use of cell phones will be considered cheating and reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignments for this course include the following:

- (1) Midterm 1 (25% of course grade) on Wednesday, October 5
- (2) Midterm 2 (25% of course grade) on Wednesday, November 9
- (3) Final exam (35% of course grade) on Friday, December 17 (12:15-2:30 pm)
- (4) Three unannounced quizzes based on course readings (15% of course grade)

Grading distribution is as follows:

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

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, using another person's ideas without giving proper credit, using a cell phone during class assignments, exams, quizzes) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

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Fall 2011 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/24	Introduction Read: "Introduction" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 1-8)
2	08/29 - 08/31	Ancient Mesoamerica Read: "Ancient Civilizations" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 55-56)* "Popol Vuh" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 79-85)* "The Origins of the Aztecs" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 57-60)* "Omens Foretelling the Conquest" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 92-94)* FILM: "Aztecs: Inside the Hidden Empire"
3	09/07	Conquest and Colonialism Read: "Conquest and Colony" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 95-96)* "The Spaniards' Entry into Tenochtitlán" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 97-104)* "Battles of Tenochtitlán and Tlatelolco" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 109-113)* "The Spiritual Conquest" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 114-121)* "Why the Indians are Dying" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 122-130)* "The Colonial <i>Latifundio</i> " (<i>MR</i> , pp. 131-140)* "On Men's Hypocrisy" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 156-159)* CAMPUS HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 5--NO CLASS MEETING
4	09/12 - 09/14	Mexico's First Century: From Independence to <i>Porfiriato</i> Read: "Trials of the Young Republic" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 169-170)* "Sentiments of the Nation" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 189-191)* "Women and War in Mexico" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 196-205)* "War and Finance, Mexican Style" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 217-219)* "Considerations Relating to Political and Social Situation" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 226-238)* "A Letter from Mexico" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 265-269)* "The Triumph of the Republic" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 270-272)* "Porfirio Diaz Visits Yucatán" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 273-278)* "Scenes from a Lumber Camp" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 279-284)*
5	09/19 - 09/21	The Mexican Revolution and Its Aftermath Read: "Gift of the Skeletons" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 292-293)* "Revolution" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 333-334)* "Land and Liberty" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 335-338)* "Plan of Ayala" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 339-343)* "The Restoration of the <i>Ejido</i> " (<i>MR</i> , pp. 344-350)* "Zapatistas in the Palace" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 351-356)* "Mexico Has Been Turned into a Hell" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 357-363)* "Pancho Villa" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 364-371)* "Pedro Martinez" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 375-386)* "Juan the Chamula" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 385-397)* "An Agrarian Encounter" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 403-405)* "The Formation of the Single-Party State" (<i>MR</i> , pp. 426-427)*

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	09/26 - 09/28	<p>In Search of <i>Lo Mexicano</i> Read: "The Search for '<i>Lo Mexicano</i>'" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 9-10)* "The Cosmic Race" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 15-19)* "Ode to Cuauhtémoc" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 406-410)* "The Sons of <i>Malinche</i>" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 20-27)* "The Problem of National Culture" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 28-32)* "Does It Mean Anything to Be Mexican?" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 33-40)* "Two <i>Ranchera</i> Songs" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 53-54)*</p>
7	10/03 - 10/05	<p>Modernization and Its Discontents Read: "Agrarian Reform in La Laguna" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 445-451)* "The Oil Expropriation" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 452-455)* "The Perils of Modernity" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 461-463)* "They Gave Us the Land" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 465-469)* "Art and Corruption" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 492-499)* "The Sinking City" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 520-535)* "Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 536-544)* FILM: "Los Olvidados" MIDTERM 1: October 5</p>
8	10/10 - 10/12	<p>Legitimation Crisis Read: "From the Ruins" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 553-554)* "Struggles of a Campesino Leader" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 482-491)* "The Student Movement of 1968" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 555-569)* "After the Earthquake" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 579-590)* "El Santo's Strange Career" (<i>MR</i>, pp. 570-578)* "I Don't Believe Them All" (<i>MR</i>, p. 612)*</p>
9	10/17 - 10/19	<p>Shifting Gender Roles in Contemporary Mexico Read: "Dead Women of Juárez" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 137-152)* "The Jotos of La Fogata" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 79-98) * "Telenovela" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 53-78)* MIDTERM EXAM--OCTOBER 20</p>
10	10/24 - 10/26	<p>NAFTA, Migration, and Mass Culture Read: "West Side Kansas Street" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 153-172)* "Nuevo Chupícuaro" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 283-292)* "Tepito" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 233-248)* <i>Zapotec Science</i>, Chapters 1-2 FILM: "Global Assembly Line"</p>
11	10/31 - 11/02	<p>Indigenous Communities, Past and Present Read: <i>Zapotec Science</i>, Chapters 3-5</p>
12	11/07 - 11/09	<p>Dilemmas in the Countryside Read: <i>Zapotec Science</i>, Chapters 6-8 "San Quintín" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 97-116)* FILM: "Losing Knowledge" MIDTERM 2: November 9</p>
13	11/14 - 11/16	<p>Mexico's Northern Border Read: <i>Drug War Zone</i> (pp. 1-96) "The Ballad of Chalino Sánchez" (<i>TT</i>, pp. 11-30)*</p>

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/21 - 11/23	Narcotrafficking and Culture Read: <i>Drug War Zone</i> (pp. 97-192) "Two Songs about Drug Smuggling," (<i>MR</i> , pp. 747-749)* "Jesús Malverde" (<i>TT</i> , pp. 225-232)*
15	11/28 - 11/30	Militarizing Mexico Read: <i>Drug War Zone</i> (pp. 193-274)
16	12/05 - 12/07	Grassroots Uprisings: COCEI, Zapatistas, APPO Read: "The Long Journey from Despair to Hope," (<i>MR</i> , pp. 646-654)* "Debtor's Revenge," (<i>MR</i> , pp. 670-683)* "The Rise and Fracture of the APPO," (distributed in class) "Political Autonomy and Cultural Diversity," (distributed in class) "Indigenous Demands and the APPO," (distributed in class) FILM: "Granito de Arena" (excerpts)
Final	12/14/11	FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 14 (9:45 am - 12:00 pm)

Notes:

* *MR* refers to selections from *The Mexico Reader* by Joseph and Henderson; *TT* refers to selections from *True Tales from Another Mexico* by Quinones.