

Dr. W. Martínez  
756-1212

**HUMANITIES 310**  
**CULTURES OF MEXICO**

Cal Poly SLO

Office : Bldg 47-26A  
Office hours: MW 10-11:30 am, TH 11-12, or by appointment  
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**Course Description:**

An interdisciplinary examination of the different components that make up Mexican culture. The course examines the roots of Mexicaness through Mesoamerican cultures and follows historical/topical development of Latin America's, and specifically Mexico's most important iconic symbols of traditional culture. Of special interest are the marginal discourses that have always co-existed in Mexico and help to form the mosaic of its culture.

**Required Texts:**

- \* The Course of Mexican History by Michael Meyer and William L. Sherman 8th Ed.
- \* The Labyrinth of Solitude and Other Writings by Octavio Paz
- \* Cultures of Mexico Reading packet (available at El Corral bookstore)
- \* Articles and films on reserve in the library

**Course Dynamics:**

Students are expected to come prepared with assign readings to class, to actively participate in discussion, and to respect other's opinions as they do their own. Student input in this course is greatly valued.

**Grading:**

Grading will be on a straight percent scale as follows:

100-95: A	86-84: B	76-74: C	66-64: D
94-90: A-	83-80: B-	73-70: C-	63-60: D-
89-87: B+	79-77: C+	69-67: D+	59-00: F

Borderline cases will be determined only by the amount of class participation.

**Gradable work:**

Your grade will be determined based on the following work to be completed during the course:

WORK	VALUE
4 of 5 30 min quizzes	200 pts (50 eac--drop the lowest score)
4 1.5-2 pp. reading reactions	200 pts (50 pts each)
6 pp final paper/ Lesson Plan	200 pts
Mid Term Exam	150 pts
Final Exam	200 pts
Participation	50 pts

## CLASS POLICIES

**Please read carefully the following. This is an actual contract that you and I will have for the quarter. The following outlines expectations for the both of us.**

### Extra Credit

If you do wish to do beyond what is required of this course I welcome your energy and enthusiasm. However, please note that **extra credit is not part of the gradable work**, and therefore will not aid you in obtaining a better grade. It will, most undoubtedly, help you understand Mexican Culture better, and if this is your desire, you have my every support.

### Quizzes and exams

Quizzes will cover the material discussed and the reading assignments up to that point. Quizzes are **not** cumulative. However, there will be **no make-up quizzes**. If you miss one, it becomes the quiz you can drop. If you miss two you quizzes, you will lose those points.

Exams will be both multiple choice and essay in form. You will be expected to develop at least one specific essay in every exam. You will always be given a choice of questions to develop. Exams are not cumulative. Response to the written part will require both discussion in class and assigned readings. Please note: **The final exam for this class is scheduled for THURSDAY, JUNE 14, from 1:00-3:00 pm. You will NOT be allowed to change the date of the exam under any circumstances.**

**There are no make-up exams. If you miss the mid-term exam, your final exam grade will count double. If you do not take the final exam you will be given an automatic "F" grade for the course, no matter what grades you have earned up to that point.**

**The only exception to this is if you have a medical emergency that is verified with documentation ( too many exams, a cold or headache is not a medical emergency). In this case, your midterm score will count double. If you cannot verify your emergency, you will receive a failing grade for missing the final exam.**

### Reading Summaries

During the quarter you will be assigned four (4) reading summaries. These will be papers that you will write on either an article assigned, a video, or other material. You will find this material in the library, on reserve, under my name.. Your summaries are to be at an absolute minimum of 1.5 to 2 typed pages in length. You should write no more than three pages for any assignment. (I will not read beyond this limit) Once announced, these assignments will be due at the beginning of the following class meeting. You may write these in either English or Spanish. Grammar, punctuation, and content will all count towards the final grade. **No late work will be accepted under any circumstance.**

### Term paper/ Project

All students will select either to write a final paper or to do a unit lesson plan project. This paper/project will be at least 6 full pages in length, written in either English or Spanish (your choice); the maximum length is to be 8 pages. I will not read beyond this point, and your grade will be based, in part, on your meeting this requirement. The paper/project will also be graded on grammar and content. Depending on which you choose (paper or lesson plan) follow the indications bellow:

**Term Paper:** The final paper will be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5 by 11 in. paper. It should be done on 10 or 12 pt font—Times or Times New Roman (about 250-300 words per page) The topic will be any specific part of **Mexican culture** that interest you most. It must include a bibliography (not part of the 6 pages) and at most two electronic references (WWW). You should make sure that punctuation, spelling, and solid arguments are part of the essay. If your essay does not contain a thesis statement, if it is mostly a quote paper, or the bibliography contains more than two electronic references, it will receive an automatic grade of “F.”

**Lesson Plan Project:** If you are taking this course with a desire to complement your BCLAD, you have the option to prepare a lesson plan for an entire unit of teaching instead of writing a formal term paper on **Mexican culture**. This lesson plan must be for 6 full hours of teaching/evaluation. It should include an overall introduction, objectives, materials and detailed activities, input and output, and follow up. Lesson plans will be typed, double-spaced on 8.5 by 11 in. paper. If you do not have measurable outputs, the lesson plan will receive an automatic “F” grade.

Papers/Lesson Plans must be delivered in person, and they must be typed and double-spaced. **Do not, under any circumstances, e-mail me your paper/project, as I will not accept them in this format.**

Papers/ Lesson Plans are due at the beginning of the last day of class, at the beginning of class. (12:10 pm on XXXXXXXXX). Once I start to lecture, your paper is late and WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you are ill, I will need to see verifiable proof of your indisposition to accept your paper/lesson plan.

Note #1: Having too many things to do that particular week or not having a computer that works is NOT a valid reason. Please make sure that you begin working on your paper/ lesson plans as soon as possible, and also please make sure that all your electronic equipment works properly.

Note #2: Please pay close attention to the fact that **Chicano (or Mexican-American)** culture is NOT Mexican culture, so please be careful in choosing your topic. If you are unsure, please let me know with anticipation, so you can complete this assignment correctly.

### **Participation**

Students are expected to come prepared to class and to interact with all class discussions. Hence, you should complete your reading assignment **prior** to the beginning of that class meeting. You will be held responsible for **ALL** the material covered in class and in the reading assignments. If you plan to miss a class meeting, obtain class notes from one of your fellow students. Showing up for class and sitting passively DOES NOT constitute participation. Your grade will depend on your active classwork.

If you have any questions on the material, or you would like a more detailed explanation of any topic covered in class, please ask me in class. If you are interested in discussing topics not covered in class, please feel free to drop by the office and talk.

If the hours posted do not work well for you, please let me know and I will make other arrangements. I have an open door policy, and can be readably found on campus.

### **Cell Phones and Beepers.**

Please make sure that all your electronic personal communication devices are turned off during class. If one goes off and disturbs the lecture I will request that you leave the classroom or surrender the device for the remainder of the period. If you must be connected, please do so silently.

### **Civility and manners**

We will respect every opinion in class. Just as you want to be respected in class, so shall you respect all your peers. I encourage you to be active in participating in my class. However, if I see that you have not read, I will simply refer you to your reading assignment.

Since we will be dealing with Mexican culture please be aware that wearing hats, caps, or sunglasses in class is not acceptable behavior. Remove them while you are in class. The same goes for placing your feet on top of the furniture (feet belong on the floor, in Mexican culture). Please abstain from placing your feet on top of someone else's seat. If you arrive late for class, please excuse yourself to the class prior to sitting down.

If I believe that you are being disrespectful and/or a disturbance to the class, I have the right to ask you to leave for that day. Our aim is to be civil at all times.

**Calendar of Activities  
Spring Quarter 2007**

Week #	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>1</b>	Administrative Introduction to course. What is culture?	Mesoamerican cultures: The Olmecs, Teotihuacán, Monte Albán Maya Film: "Mystery of the Maya."
<b>2</b>	Children of the 5th sun: The Mexica (Aztec) Paper #1 due	The encounter of three cultures: Spain and its history prior to 1500. Quiz #1
<b>3</b>	Conquest vs. Independence The Colony in the 16th century	From Mestizaje to Xenophobia: New Spain in the 17th and 18th C.
<b>4</b>	Politics and Religion.	Politics and Religion (Continued) Quiz #2
<b>5</b>	Review for Midterm. Paper #2 due	Midterm Exam.
<b>6</b>	Independence and War Mexico and the United States	5 de mayo and beyond
<b>7</b>	Life and death: El día de los muertos. Quiz #3	Philosophy in Mexico: Duality, Dualism and Positivism Paper #3 due.
<b>8</b>	Of heroes and dictators: From dictatorship to The Mexican Revolution Film: "The Mexican Revolution"	The "Golden Age" Mexico 1950-1970 Film: "Mexico 1950-1970" Quiz #4
<b>9</b>	Women's voices: The "forgotten" culture	Modern Mexico? 1970-2000 Paper #4 due Film: "The Mexicans through their eyes"
<b>10</b>	From the People's hand Popular Folkloric art Quiz #5	Review for Final Examination <u>Term Paper/Projects due</u>
<b>11</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM: Thursday June 14, 2007 1-3 pm</b>	