

RIO HONDO COLLEGE - DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Humanities 125 Introduction to Mexican Culture (3 units)
Spring 2012 – (16 Week Track) CRN-30823

COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION Santiago Andres Garcia, MA / SGarcia@RioHondo.edu / Office A 201C / www.santiagoandresgarcia.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 UNITS) This course provides an interdisciplinary presentation of vital artistic, literary, architectural, musical, political, religious and historical movements within Mexico spanning from pre-Cortesian to contemporary times. This course is designed for students who wish to further their understanding of major Mexican cultural and historical developments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES The goal of this class is to give students a comprehensive view of major cultural achievements from Mexico spanning from pre-Cortesian to contemporary times. By the end of the course, students should be able to: (1) Explain the significance of major historical events and their impact on Mexican culture, (2) Describe the ideological similarities/differences among Mexico's cultural leaders, (3) Recognize and explain major Pre-Cortesian cultural developments that led to the formation of Mexico, and (4) Identify Mexican values/traditions and their role in cultural behavior. In addition, this course meets the Humanities general education requirement for students transferring to a CSU or UC university.

QUIZ/FINAL EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY None of the quizzes will be allowed to be taken after the scheduled date. In this case of an absence, a student should turn in the one extra credit assignment allowed, to make up for the missing quiz points. In the case of the final exam, only students who miss the last day due to an emergency (i.e., documented illness, car accident, or death in the family), will be allowed to retake the final exam on a later day.

STUDENT LOGIN To view the syllabus online and download any required class readings visit the following website <http://www.santiagoandresgarcia.com> and click on the "Student Login" link on the left hand column. The password is **humanities125** all lower case letters.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION To fully grasp the course topics students must attend every class meeting and participate in all classroom discussions and activities. Roll **WILL** be taken daily, and attending class does amount to earning 50 possible participation points, almost 10% of one's final grade.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK *Introduction to Mexican Culture* by Martha Carreón, 2011 Edition. Rio Hondo College, Whittier, CA (2011) ASID # B001GMRI0Q

CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, & SEXUAL HARASSMENT See Rio Hondo College catalog.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

01/30/2012 (Week #1) Monday

Introduction to class/syllabus, roll call, summary instructions, taking an anthropological approach. Define anthropology, the four fields, culture, religion, government, complex societies, stratification, gender roles, status, and identity.

02/01/2012 (Week #1) Wednesday

Cultural pursuit *Loteria* (Activity #1) and personal histories as contributions.

02/06/2012 (Week #2) Monday

The Americas, bodies of water, migration theories, and mega-fauna.

02/08/2012 (Week #2) Wednesday

Hunters and gatherers, the domestication of plants, sedentary lifestyles and culture, Quiz #1 review.

02/13/2012 (Week #3) Monday

BOOK REQUIRED FROM THIS DATE ON Martha Carreón 2011 (MC11)

Quiz #1 on the Peopling of the New World, and anthropological concepts.

Lecture on Mesoamerica (MC11 pages 1-90).

02/15/2012 (Week #3) Wednesday

The Olmec of the Gulf Coast of Mexico, Tlatilco, and San Jose Mogote (MC11 pages 10-23), and Summary #1 due.

02/20/2012 (Week #4) Monday

Video: Secrets of the Ancients: Olmec Heads.

02/22/2012 (Week #4) Wednesday

The Teotihuacano's (MC11 pages 24-36), Quiz #2 review, and Summary #2 due.

02/27/2012 (Week #5) Monday

Quiz #2 on the Formative period and Teotihuacan. Lecture on the Classic Maya (MC11 pages 65-100).

02/29/2012 (Week #5) Wednesday

Video: Lost Civilizations of the Maya. Summary #3 due.

03/05/2012 (Week #6) Monday

Lecture on Tula and the Epi-classic period (MC11 pages 114-123).

03/07/2012 (Week #6) Wednesday

Lecture on Cacaxtla and Xochicalco, Quiz #3 review, and Summary #4 due.

03/12/2012 (Week #7) Monday

Quiz #3 on The Ancient Maya and the Epi-Classic period. Lecture on the Aztecs (MC11 pages 135-158).

03/14/2012 (Week #7) Wednesday

Lecture on the Aztecs cont., Mesoamerican timeline activity, and Summary #5 due.

03/19/2012 (Week #8) Monday

Lecture on the conquest of the Americas (MC11 pages 165-175).

03/21/2012 (Week #8) Wednesday

Video: In Search of History – The Aztecs. Quiz #4 review, and Summary #6 due.

03/26/2012 TO 03/30/2012 CAMPUS CLOSED, NO CLASSES (SPRING BREAK 2012)

04/02/2012 (Week #9) Monday

Quiz #4 on the Aztecs and the conquest. Lecture on New Spain (MC11 pages 176-188).

04/04/2012 (Week #9) Wednesday

Lecture on the colonial period of the Americas, and Summary #7 due.

04/09/2012 (Week #10) Monday

Lecture on the struggle for Mexican independence (1810–1821) (MC11 pages 214-226).

04/11/2012 (Week #10) Wednesday

Movie: *The Other Conquest (La Otra Conquista)*. Quiz #5 review, and Summary #8 due.

04/16/2012 (Week #11) Monday

Quiz #5 on the colonial period and the struggle for Mexican independence. Lecture on the battle with Texas (MC11 227-231).

04/18/2012 (Week #11) Wednesday

Lecture on the war with the United States (MC11 pages 232-241), and Summary #9 due.

04/23/2012 (Week #12) Monday

Lecture on the war with France (MC11 242-248). Lecture on the Mexican revolution (MC11 249-264).

04/25/2012 (Week #12) Wednesday

Lecture on the Mexican revolution cont., and Summary #10 due.

04/30/2012 (Week #13) Monday

Quiz #6 on the battle with Texas, the United States, France, and the Mexican Revolution. Lecture on the muralist/art movement in Mexico (MC11 pages 270-303).

05/02/2012 (Week #13) Wednesday

Lecture on the Mexican Constitution (MC11 pages 264-266), and Summary #11 due.

05/07/2012 (Week #14) Monday

Lecture on Mexico's political parties (MC11 page 264 and classroom handout).

05/09/2012 (Week #14) Wednesday

Lecture on indigenous movements of Mexico (handouts provided), and Summary #12 due.

05/14/2012 (Week #15) Monday

Lecture on Mexican contributions in radio, tv, and film (MC11 372-393).

05/16/2012 (Week #15) Wednesday

Lecture on Mexican intellectual literary works (MC11 305-324), and Summary #13 due.

05/21/2012 (Week #16) Monday

Final examination review.

05/23/2012 (Week #16) Wednesday

Final examination and end of the semester celebration.



COURSE GRADING SCALE & POINTS BREAKDOWN

Tasks		Points
Reading summaries (13)	x10	130
Class participation	attendance based	50
Quiz's (6)	x20	120
Final (1)	x100	100
Fact Finding Paper/Poster (1)	x100	100

Total Class Points **500**

EXTRA CREDIT Museum visit write-up (1-2 page, double-spaced, informative paper) 25 *points possible*.

COURSE MATERIALS

-  Reading Summary Layout and Instructions Sheet (See attached).
-  Fact Finding Paper and Poster Instructions (See attached).

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

1. Engage your classmates through dialogue and intellectual conversations; though be respectful and mindful of people's social identities, gender, age, and physical disabilities.
2. Please have all of your electronic devices turned off. It is also recommended that you keep your valuable (expensive) gadgets out of public view. Theft does occur.
3. **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING DURING CLASS.** You will be asked to put your phones away during class if this behavior is observed. Please do this during breaks only.
4. When asking a question raise your hand. No shouting or talking out loud. Refer to the instructor as "Instructor Garcia," "Professor Garcia," or "*Profe*," is fine also.
5. When emailing any instructor, myself included, be professional and clear in your message. "Hey what's up professor?" will not get you a timely response.
6. For this class, laptops for taking notes will not be allowed. THEY ARE a distraction for everyone, including the instructor. As an alternative, lectures can be voice recorded.
7. Assert yourself politely in class. Greet your classmates with "Good morning, how are you?" Give yourself time in the morning to prepare and eat a balanced breakfast.
8. Practice good hygiene; remember that the classroom is a *shared* space of learning. Arriving to class under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not advised; **PLEASE** remain home, for your safety and the safety of others.

What do you as a student receive in return? A passionate instructor, knowledgeable in the area of Mexican culture and history. You will learn in my class, you will be challenged to think beyond the norm, and you will do so with new material. My goal is to aid your learning, teach you, bring out the best in you, and prepare you for what is a long but rewarding educational experience. **See my Teaching Philosophy.**

REFERENCE LIST AND BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Carreon, Martha*
2011 *Introduction to Mexican Culture 2011 Edition*. Rio Hondo College, ASID # B001GMRI0Q
- Mayo, Samuel H.
1978 *A history of Mexico: From pre-Columbia to present*. Prentice-Hall
- Meyer, Michael C., William L. Sherman, and Susan M. Deeds
2011 *The Course of Mexican History 9th Edition*. Oxford University Press, Oxford

*Mandatory course material.