

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE - DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**Humanities 125 Introduction to Mexican Culture (3 units)**  
Summer 2012 – 6 Week Track / MW 6:00PM – 10:15PM / CRN-50052

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION** Santiago Andres Garcia, MA / [SGarcia@RioHondo.edu](mailto:SGarcia@RioHondo.edu) / Administration 205 / [www.santiagoandresgarcia.com](http://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-Columbian 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-Columbian 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-Columbian 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 "Rio Hondo Student Page."

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION** In order to comprehend 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 100 possible points, almost 20% 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**

**06/18/2012 (Week #1) Monday**

- Introduction to class/syllabus, roll call, and summary instructions.
- Taking an anthropological approach. Define anthropology, the four fields, culture, religion, government, complex societies, stratification, gender roles, status, and identity.
- Classroom Activity #1 Cultural Pursuit *Lotería*.
- Personal histories as contributions.
- Student academic information cards.

**06/20/2012 (Week #1) Wednesday**

- Turn in Summary #1, and #2.
- Classroom grading.
- The Americas, bodies of water, migration theories, and mega-fauna.
- Hunters and gatherers, the domestication of plants, sedentary lifestyles, and culture.
- Movie: The Solutreans.

**06/25/2012 (Week #2) Monday**

- Quiz #1 on the Peopling of the New World, domestication, culture, and anthropological concepts.
- Introductory lecture on Mesoamerica (MC11 pages 1-90).
- The Olmec of the Gulf Coast of Mexico, Tlatilco, and San Jose Mogote (MC11 pages 10-23).
- Movie: Secrets of the Ancients: Olmec Heads.
- Classroom Activity #2 Olmec Word Search.

**06/27/2012 (Week #2) Wednesday**

- Turn in Summary #3, and #4.
- Classroom grading.
- The Teotihuacano's (MC11 pages 24-36).
- Lecture on the Classic Maya (MC11 pages 65-100).
- Movie: Lost Civilizations of the Ancient Maya.

**07/02/2012 (Week #3) Monday**

- Quiz #2 on Mesoamerica, the Olmec, Teotihuacan, and the Ancient Maya.
- Lecture on Tula and the Epi-classic period (MC11 pages 114-123).
- Lecture on Cacaxtla and Xochicalco.
- Lecture on the *Mexica* (MC11 pages 135-158).
- Lecture on the conquest of the Americas (MC11 pages 165-175).
- Classroom Activity #3 Mesoamerican Timeline (take home).

**07/04/2012 (Week #3) Wednesday HOLIDAY / NO SCHOOL**

**07/09/2012 (Week #4) Monday**

- Quiz #3 on the Epi-classic Period, the *Mexica*, and the conquest of the Americas.
- Lecture on New Spain (MC11 pages 176-188).
- Lecture on the colonial period of the Americas.
- Movie: The Other Conquest (*La Otra Conquista*).
- Classroom Activity #4 Colonial Period Word Search.

**07/11/2012 (Week #4) Wednesday**

- Turn in Summary #5, and #6.
- Classroom grading.
- Lecture on the fight for Mexican independence (1810–1821) (MC11 pages 214-226).
- Lecture on the battle with Texas (MC11 227-231).
- Lecture on the war with the United States (MC11 pages 232-241).
- Lecture on the war with France (MC11 242-248).

**07/16/2012 (Week #5) Monday**

- Quiz #4 on the colonial period, Mexican independence, battles with Texas, the US, and France.
- Lecture on the Mexican revolution (MC11 249-264).
- Lecture on the Mexican Constitution (MC11 pages 264-266).
- Lecture on Mexico's political parties (MC11 page 264 and classroom handout).
- Movie: *EI PRI*, *PAN*, and the *PRD*.

**07/18/2012 (Week #5) Wednesday**

- Turn in Summary #7, and #8.
- Classroom grading.
- Lecture on the muralist/art movement in Mexico (MC11 pages 270-303).
- Lecture on intellectual literary works (MC11 305-324)
- Lecture on Mexican traditional Values (MC11 372-393).

**07/23/2012 (Week #6) Monday**

- Quiz #5 on the Mexican Revolution, the Mexican Constitution, and the muralist/art movement.
- Final examination review.

**07/25/2012 (Week #6) Wednesday**

- Turn in Summary #9, and #10.
- Classroom grading.
- Final examination.
- End of the semester celebration.
- Final grades.

**COURSE GRADING SCALE & POINTS BREAKDOWN**

<b>Academic Tasks</b>		<b>Possible Points</b>
Reading Summaries (10)	x10	100
Classroom Participation	attendance based	100
Classroom Activities (4)	x25	100
Quiz's (5)	x20	100
Final Exam (1)	X75	75

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**Total Class Points** **475**

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

**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," "Mr. 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 evening, how are you?" Give yourself time throughout the day to eat healthy, complete homework, and prepare for class.
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 prohibited; **REMAIN** home, for your own 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.