Mexico: From Pre-Columbian Peoples to the Present
T, R:  11:20-12:50
Palmer 205

Instructor:   Mike LaRosa
Office:  311 Clough
Hours:  MWF 8-10 am
Phone:  843-3656 (office); 725-9865 (home)

Description:

This course will focus on Mexico as geographic territory and address, in a systematic fashion, the social, cultural, and economic history of the peoples who have inhabited Mexico. The course begins with an examination of pre-Columbian history and moves on to the European conquest of Mexico (c. 1519), colonial institutions and actors, nineteenth century intrigue, instability and foreign intervention. The course concludes with an examination of the twentieth century revolution (1911-), reform and identity.

Books:

There are five books available for purchase at the college bookstore. The Meyer, Sherman, Deeds book will serve as the primary text.

Castillo, Ana, ed.  *Goddess of the Americas: Diosa de las Americas. Writings on the Virgin of Guadalupe.*  
Rubenstein, Anne.  *Bad Language, Naked Ladies and Other threats to the Nation: A Political History of Comic Books in Mexico.*  
Rulfo, Juan.  *The Burning Plain and Other Stories.*

Grading and Attendance:

The final course grade will be based on four assignments: a standard in-class midterm and final exam, one short review of one of the assigned texts and a short “film paper.” Additionally, each week students will be responsible for writing and distributing a quiz based on the reading.

Lecture, reading and exam schedule:

Week One:  12 Jan. 1999
Introduction to the Course
Reading: MSD: pp 3-12.

Week Two: 19 Jan 1999

Classical Mexico: Mayan Civilization
Reading: MSD: chapters 2-3

Week Three: 26 Jan. 1999

Aztecs and Invasion
Reading: MSD: chapters 4-8

Week Four: 2 Feb.

Church, women (Sor Juana and Guadalupe) and race in Colonial New Spain.
Reading: Castillo, pp. xv-xxii and 1-45, 52-55, 68-92
Film: “Yo la Peor de Todas.”

Week Five: 9 Feb.

Independence: For Whom?
Reading: MSD: chapters 14-17

Week Six: 16 Feb.

Santa Anna: A Mexican Caudillo.
Reading: MSD: chapters 18-19

Week Seven: 23 Feb.

The US Takes Texas (and a little more).
Reading: Zinn, chapter 8 from A People’s History of the United States.
Mid term exam on Thursday.

Week Eight: 2 March

Civil War and Porfiriato.
Reading: MSD, chapters 23-29.

Week Nine: 9 March

No class--Spring Break
Week 10: 16 March

Mexico in Revolution.
Reading: Fuentes, chapters 1-5
Film: “Viva Zapata.”

Week 11: 23 March

Indigenismo and Mexican literature
Reading: MSD, chapter 39; Rulfo (entire text)

Week 12: 30 March

Mexico and Modernization in the Twentieth Century--what the comic books say.
Reading: Rubenstein (entire text).
No class on Thursday--Easter Recess

Week 13: 6 April

Mexican Americas
Reading: Fuentes, chapter 9

Week 14: 13 April

Chiapas...the forgotten land.
Reading: Fuentes, chapter 7; Guillermoprieto (hand-out)
Video: “Interview with Sub-Comandante Marcos” from “Sixty Minutes.”

Week 15: 20 April

Issues of Immigration
Reading: Castillo, pp. 98-113; MSD chapters 44-45; “New York Times” hand out

Week 16: 27 April

Mexican machismo
Reading: Castillo, pp. 197-209
Film: “El Mariachi” by Robert Rodriguez