

HILA 171/HIGR 271—Colloquium on The Mexican Revolution

Spring, 2007

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

HSS 6008

Instructor:

Dr. Eric Van Young

Muir Humanities and Social Science 5073; office hours: Monday, 1-3 p.m., and by appointment

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Scope of the course:

This is a graduate-level seminar-style course in which advanced undergraduates are very welcome. The seminar is intended to introduce students in Latin American history, Latin American Studies, and those with a thematic or area interest to the vast and rich historical literature on the era of the Mexican Revolution, broadly defined as encompassing the years 1876-1940, as well as to raise broader issues of historical method and theory. The readings are almost exclusively in English because of the problems of accessibility and cost in stocking books from Mexico.

Course requirements:

The formal work of the course will consist of a single 20-page essay for graduate students, and a 15-page essay for undergraduates (these are the minimum acceptable lengths—longer essays gladly accepted), on some aspect of the Mexican Revolution. The research may be done all or in part in Spanish if the student has the linguistic capability, but a reading knowledge of Spanish is not a requirement of the course. There will also be required of both groups a short prospectus for the paper (1-3 pages will suffice), along with a preliminary bibliography, due by the sixth week of the quarter *without fail*. What the instructor expects from the paper will be discussed in class. An important (if unquantifiable) part of the final grade will also depend upon students' consistent engagement in seminar discussions.

Course format:

The standard format for such a course is three hours of seminar meeting weekly, with strong student participation in the form of discussion and occasional more formal presentations required of every student, size of the group permitting. There may be one or more guest discussion leaders during the quarter.

Readings:

The readings are listed below, more or less in the order in which they will be discussed in the seminar, although the order might change as circumstances dictate. All the books (except Barron) should be available at Groundwork Books and on reserve in the Geisel Library. The instructor will provide xeroxed copies of the book by Barrón to students at cost (\$9.00). There may also be supplemental readings during some weeks in the form of

copies of journal articles or book chapters; these will be provided by the instructor free to the students unless the cost becomes prohibitive.

Calendar/Readings

Meeting of:

- 2 April Introduction; brief discussion
(It was not possible to schedule reading in advance of the first meeting since it was not clear how many students would be registered or what their names are.)
- 9 April Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution*, vol. 1: *Porfirians, Liberals, and Peasants*
(University of Nebraska Press, reprint ed., 1990)
- 16 April Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution*, vol. 2
(University of Nebraska Press, reprint ed., 2007)
- 23 April Paul Garner, *Porfirio Díaz*
(Longman, 2001)
- 30 April Theda Skocpol, *Social Revolutions in the Modern World* (Cambridge University Press, reprint ed., 2005)
- 7 May Allen Wells and Gilbert Joseph, *Summer of Discontent, Seasons of Upheaval: Elite Politics and Rural Insurgency in Yucatán, 1876-1915* (Stanford University Press, 1996)
paper prospectus and preliminary bibliography due in class
- 14 May John Womack, *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution*
(Vintage, 1970)
- 21 May Jürgen Buchenau, *Plutarco Elías Calles and the Mexican Revolution* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007)
- 28 May Memorial Day holiday—no class meeting
Read for discussion on 4 June: Daniel Nugent, *Spent Cartridges of Revolution: An Anthropological History of Namiquipa, Chihuahua* (University of Chicago Press, 1993)

4 June

Mary Kay Vaughan and Steven Lewis, eds.,
*The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural
Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940* (Duke University
Press, 2005); also discuss Nugent book

N.B.:

A supplemental reading, to be done alongside the others as the quarter progresses, but the earlier the better: Luis Barrón, *La revolución mexicana* (Mexico City, CIDE/Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2006); This is a very useful bibliographical essay, consisting of a commentary of reasonable length and a detailed list of book citations in several languages on the Mexican Revolution, that may be helpful for the paper assignment.