

HILA 162/HIGR 262—Colloquium on The Mexican Revolution

Winter, 2014

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-11:50 a.m.

HSS 4025

Instructor:

Dr. Eric Van Young

Muir Humanities and Social Science 5073; office hours: Tuesday, 4-6 p.m., and occasionally 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 primarily of a single 25-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. There will also be required of both groups a short prospectus for the paper (2-3 pages will suffice), along with a preliminary bibliography, due in class in the fifth week of the quarter *without fail*. For graduate students the prospectus will be considered along with the long essay as the basis for the course grade. Undergraduates will also need to write two shorter papers, each dedicated to one of the weekly readings (see the calendar and guides below), and each weighted at 10% of the total grade (the long essay and the prospectus will therefore account for 80% of the total grade). The research for the long essay 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. What the instructor expects from the various papers will be discussed in class. **An important (if unquantifiable) element of the final grade will also depend upon students' consistent engagement in seminar discussions**, and upon the quality of the in-class presentations they are occasionally asked to make.

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 will be available at the UCSD Bookstore and on reserve in the Geisel Library. If students have other means of getting the books (in some form from the Internet, for example), they may do so, but this will be their exclusive responsibility. 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, in the week preceding discussion of the article/chapter, unless the cost becomes prohibitive.

Calendar/ReadingsMeeting of:

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| 7 January | 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.) |
| 14 January | Alan Knight, <i>The Mexican Revolution</i> , vol. 1: <i>Porfirians, Liberals, and Peasants</i>
(University of Nebraska Press, reprint ed., 1990) |
| 21 January | Alan Knight, <i>The Mexican Revolution</i> , vol. 2
(University of Nebraska Press, reprint ed., 2007) |
| 28 January | Paul Garner, <i>Porfirio Díaz</i>
(Longman, 2001) |
| 4 February | Theda Skocpol, <i>Social Revolutions in the Modern World</i> (Cambridge University Press, reprint ed., 2005)
<u>Paper prospectus and preliminary bibliography due in class</u> |
| 11 January | Allen Wells and Gilbert Joseph, <i>Summer of Discontent, Seasons of Upheaval: Elite Politics and Rural Insurgency in Yucatán, 1876-1915</i> (Stanford University Press, 1996)
<u>Short paper due from undergraduates, in class, no less than three pages in length, presenting an analysis of the book by Wells and Joseph</u> |
| 18 February | John Womack, <i>Zapata and the Mexican Revolution</i>
(Vintage, 1970) |

- 25 February Jürgen Buchenau, *Plutarco Elías Calles and the Mexican Revolution* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007)
Second short paper due from undergraduates, in class, no less than three pages in length, discussing the value of biography as history based on the three biographical studies we have read for the course
- 4 March Daniel Nugent, *Spent Cartridges of Revolution: An Anthropological History of Namiquipa, Chihuahua* (University of Chicago Press, 1993)
- 11 March Mary Kay Vaughan and Steven Lewis, eds., *The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940* (Duke University Press, 2005)

N.B.:

A very useful resource for bibliography—the identification of secondary sources as research material, basically—is Luis Barrón, *La revolución mexicana* (Mexico City, CIDE/Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2006). This consists of a commentary of reasonable length and a detailed list of book citations in several languages on the Mexican Revolution; students should obtain this for themselves.