

**History 264**  
**Mexican Revolution**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**  
**MWF 9:00-9:50 in SSC 106**

**Sujay Rao**  
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### **COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2005**

**Overview:** No event has generated as much debate within the field of Latin American history as the Mexican Revolution of the early twentieth century. Yet there is still surprisingly little agreement on what the Revolution meant. This course will examine various aspects of the Mexican Revolution from 1910 to 1940, including land reform, Mexico's relationship with foreign powers, the place of art in the revolution in the 1920s and 1930s, gender, and the mass migration of Mexicans to the United States. Students will undertake independent research on a topic of their own choosing and will deliver an oral presentation of their work as well as writing a 10-page term paper.

#### **Assignments:**

- Attendance and informed participation, 20%
- Map Quiz (in class Monday, September 26), 5%
- 5-page Paper (due Friday, October 7), 10%
- Midterm Exam (in class Wednesday, October 19), 15%
- Source Report (due Monday, November 14), 5%
- Oral Presentation (in class Friday, Dec. 2 to Wednesday, Dec. 14), 10%
- Term Paper (due no later than Tuesday, December 20), 15%
- Final Exam (Friday, December 16, 1PM), 20%

**Readings:** The following books are available for purchase at the Bookmark:

- Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs* (required)
- Anita Brenner, *The Wind that Swept Mexico* (required)
- Desmond Rochfort, *Mexican Muralists* (required)
- John Womack, Jr., *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution* (required)

**Grading Policies and Late Work:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. You may *request* an extension for *either* the 5-page Paper or the Source Report provided that you make the request at least one week before the due date. Any other late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/6 of a letter grade per day (for example, an A- paper turned in two days late would receive a B+) with exceptions for documented illnesses and other emergencies. If you cannot avoid turning an assignment in late, please talk to Sujay *in advance*.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance at all meetings is mandatory and will be recorded. Please make every effort to ensure that other activities do not interfere with regular attendance. If an absence is absolutely unavoidable, please talk to Sujay *in advance*. 2 or more unexcused absences will certainly not help your grade, *4 or more unexcused absences will lead to an automatic reduction of your overall course grade*. Participation is not entirely voluntary – at times students will be called on to contribute to discussions.

**Week 1:**

**Wednesday, September 7: Welcome to History 264 – The Mexican Revolution**

- Handout: Syllabus

**Friday, September 9: Lecture – The Problems with the Mexican Revolution**

- Reading due: Brenner, *The Wind that Swept Mexico*, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 3-36 (also look at the photographs at the back of the book, which accompany the text).
- Handout: Study list and practice map for Map Quiz

**Week 2:**

**Monday, September 12: The Revolution – An Overview**

- Reading due: Brenner, Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 37-106.
- Discussion: Note-taking strategies

**Part I: The Armed Phase of the Revolution**

**Wednesday, September 14: Prelude to Revolution**

- Reading due: Womack, *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution*, Prologue and Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-66.
- Handout: The Paper Proposal

**Friday, September 16: Madero's Revolution**

- Reading due: Womack, Chapters 3-5, pp. 67-158.

**Week 3:**

**Monday, September 19: A People's Revolution?**

- Reading due: Womack, Chapters 6-8, pp. 159-255.

**Wednesday, September 21: A Revolution Vanquished...**

- Reading due: Womack, Chapters 9 and 10, pp. 256-330.

**Friday, September 23: ...or Victorious?**

- Reading due: Womack, Chapter 11 and Epilogue, pp. 331-387.

**Week 4:**

**Monday, September 26: The Revolution in the North: Chihuahua**

- Reading due: Mark Wasserman, *Capitalists, Caciques, and Revolution*, Chapters 6-8, pp. 95-130 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: The 5-page Paper
- **Map Quiz in class**

**Wednesday, September 28: NO CLASS – Nobel Conference**

**Friday, September 30: The Revolution in the North: Pancho Villa**

- Reading due: Friedrich Katz, *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa*, Chapter 11 “Villismo in Practice,” pp. 397-432 (on e-reserve).
- Discussion: Writing with sources.

*Week 5:*

**Monday, October 3: Inside Villa’s Ranks, Part I**

- Reading due: Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*, pp. 3-75.

**Wednesday, October 5: Inside Villa’s Ranks, Part II**

- Reading due: Azuela, pp. 79-151.

**Friday, October 7: Visit with Professor Albert Camarillo, Stanford University**

- **5-page Paper due**

*Week 6:*

**Monday, October 10: The United States, Europe, and the Mexican Revolution**

- Reading due: Friedrich Katz, *The Secret War in Mexico*, Chapter 5 “The United States, Great Britain, and Huerta,” pp. 156-202 (on e-reserve).

**Wednesday, October 12: Mexico and the Soviet Union**

- Reading due: Daniela Spenser, *The Impossible Triangle*, Chapter 3 “Soviet Russia in Mexican Politics,” pp. 51-70 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: Midterm exam study questions

**Friday, October 14: Sources on United States Foreign Relations**

- Reading due: Selections from *Foreign Relations of the United States* (the class will be divided into groups and given assignments).

*Week 7:*

**Monday, October 17: Land and the Revolution**

- Reading due: Frank Tannenbaum, *Peace by Revolution*, Chapter 17 “The Agrarian Process,” pp. 198-218 (on e-reserve).

**Wednesday, October 19: Midterm Exam**

**Friday, October 21: Library Session to help with Paper Proposal**

*Week 8:*

**Monday, October 24: NO CLASS – Break**

## Part II: The Institutionalized Revolution

### Wednesday, October 26: The Mexican Revolution in the 1920s – An Overview

- Reading due: Jean Meyer, “Mexico: Revolution and Reconstruction in the 1920s,” *Cambridge History of Latin America*, Vol. 5, pp. 155-194 (on e-reserve).

### Friday, October 28: A Cultural Revolution

- Reading due: José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race: The Mission of the Ibero-American Race*, pp. 3-40 (on e-reserve).

### Week 9:

### Monday, October 31: The Mexican Muralists, Part I

- Reading due: Desmond Rochfort, *The Mexican Muralists*, Chapter 3 “The Murals of the 1920s,” pp. 33-81.
- Handout: The Source Report
- **Paper Proposal due** (counts towards grade for term paper)

### Wednesday, November 2: The Mexican Muralists, Part II

- Reading due: Rochfort, Chapter 4 “Rivera and Orozco in the 1930s,” pp. 82-119.

### Friday, November 4: Frida Kahlo

- Discussion of the film *Frida* (to be viewed prior to class).

### Week 10:

### Monday, November 7: The “Red Caesar”

- Reading due: Gilbert Joseph, *Revolution from Without*, Chapter 7 “Felipe Carrillo Puerto and the rise of Yucatecan socialism,” pp. 185-227 (on e-reserve).

### Wednesday, November 9: The Revolutionary Family

- Reading due: Katherine Bliss, “The Science of Redemption: Syphilis, Sexual Promiscuity, and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 79, Number 1 (February 1999), pp. 1-40 (on e-reserve).

### Friday, November 11: Counter-Revolution – the Cristeros, Part I

- Reading due: Luis Gonzalez, *San José de Gracia*, Chapter 4 “The Mexican Revolution,” pp. 115-145 (on e-reserve).

### Week 11:

### Monday, November 14: Counter-Revolution – the Cristeros, Part II

- Reading due: Luis Gonzalez, *San José de Gracia*, Chapter 5 “The Cristero Revolution,” pp. 146-180 (on e-reserve).
- **Source Report due**

**Wednesday, November 16: The Cárdenas Administration**

- Reading due: Nora Hamilton, *The Limits of State Autonomy*, Chapter 4 “Cárdenas and the New Alliance,” pp. 104-141 (on e-reserve).

**Friday, November 18: Cárdenas and Yucatán**

- Reading due: Ben Fallaw, *Cárdenas Compromised*, Chapter 1 “Agrarian Cardenismo, the Rise of the CGT, and the Fall of Governor Alayola,” pp. 15-37 (on e-reserve).

**Week 12:**

**Monday, November 21: The Mexican Migration to the United States**

- Reading due: George J. Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Chapter 2 “Across the Dividing Line,” pp. 38-62 (on e-reserve).

**Wednesday, November 23: Mexican Americans and Los Angeles**

- Reading due: Ricardo Romo, *East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio*, Chapter 5 “The ‘Brown Scare’,” pp. 89-111 (on e-reserve).

**Friday, November 25: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 13:**

**Monday, November 28: Interpreting the Mexican Revolution, Part I**

- Reading due: John Womack, Jr., “The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920,” *Cambridge History of Latin America*, Vol. 5, pp. 79-153 (on e-reserve).
- Discussion of the Oral Presentation

**Wednesday, November 30: Interpreting the Mexican Revolution, Part II**

- Reading due: Alan Knight, “Popular Culture and the Revolutionary State in Mexico, 1910-1940,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 74 (1994), pp. 393-444 (on e-reserve).

**Friday, December 2: Oral Presentations of Term Papers**

**Week 14:**

**Monday, December 5: Oral Presentations of Term Papers**

**Wednesday, December 7: Oral Presentations of Term Papers**

**Friday, December 9: Oral Presentations of Term Papers**

- Handout: Final exam study questions

**Week 15:**

**Monday, December 12: Oral Presentations of Term Papers**

**Wednesday, December 14: Oral Presentations of Term Papers**

**The Term Paper will be due NO LATER THAN Tuesday, December 20, which is the last day of exams.**

## ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Every Gustavus Adolphus College student now agrees to abide by the academic honesty policy and honor code as a condition for enrollment. The honesty policy stipulates:

In all academic exercises, examinations, presentations, speeches, papers, and reports, students shall submit their own work. Footnotes or some other acceptable form of citation must accompany any use of another's words or ideas. Students are especially cautioned that quoting from or paraphrasing from electronic sources without proper citation is as serious a violation as copying from a book or other printed source.

In addition, the policy states "a student may not submit work that is substantially the same in two courses without first gaining permission of both instructors if the courses are taken concurrently, or permission of the current instructor, if the work had been submitted in a previous semester."

In this course, any violation of the academic honesty policy will carry the following penalty: failure of the assignment and, at the discretion of Mr. Rao, failure of the course. Students who dispute an allegation of academic dishonesty may request a hearing before a joint student/faculty honor board.

In addition, the following code will be written in full and signed on every assignment: "*On my honor, I pledge that I have not given, received, or tolerated others' use of unauthorized aid in completing this work.*" As your instructor I will attempt to clearly define the level of authorized aid appropriate to a particular assignment. However, you are responsible to ask questions about any reasonable doubt you have regarding my definition of authorized aid.

Under the honor code policy, the proctoring of exams is at the discretion of the instructor. I do intend to proctor exams in this course.

Finally, an integral part of the honor code is non-tolerance of violations. Under our code students are not expected to police others' actions. Rather, you agree to report violations of which you become aware. Failure to do so will constitute an honor code violation in this class.