

History 264
The Mexican Revolution
Gustavus Adolphus College
MWF 9:00 – 9:50
SSC 203

Sujay Rao
Social Science Center 216
Office Hrs: MWF 1:30 – 2:30
Telephone: x7434
Email: srao@gustavus.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2008

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, 25%
- 5-page Paper (due in class, Wednesday, March 5), 10%
- Map Quiz (in class, Friday, March 7), 5%
- Midterm Exam (in class, Wednesday, April 2), 15%
- Source Report (due in class, Monday, April 21), 5%
- Oral Presentation (in class, May 12 – May 21), 10%
- Research Paper (due by Tuesday, May 27), 15%
- Final Exam (Tuesday, May 27, 1PM – 3PM), 15%

Readings: The following books are available for purchase at the Book Mark:

- 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: 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 by 1/3 of a letter grade for each additional absence*. Participation is not entirely voluntary – at times students will be called on to contribute to discussions.

Week 1:

Monday, February 11: Welcome to History 264 – The Mexican Revolution

- Handout: Syllabus

Wednesday, February 13: The Problem of 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).
- Discussion: The many ways to participate in a discussion
- Handout: Study list and practice map for Map Quiz
- Handout: Perspectives

Friday, February 15: NO CLASS

Week 2:

Monday, February 18: NO CLASS

Wednesday, February 20: The Revolution – An Overview

- Reading due: Brenner, Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 37-106.
- Discussion: Note-taking strategies
- Handout: Study questions for Womack, *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution*
- Handout: The 5-Page Paper

Part I: The Armed Phase of the Revolution, 1910-1920

Friday, February 22: Prelude to Revolution

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

Week 3:

Monday, February 25: Madero's Revolution

- Reading due: Womack, Chapters 3-5, pp. 67-158.
- Reading (in class): The Plan de San Luis Potosí

Wednesday, February 27: A People's Revolution?

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

Friday, February 29: A Revolution Vanquished...

- Reading due: Womack, Chapters 9 and 10, pp. 256-330.
- Discussion: Writing with sources
- Handout: Instructions for e-reserves.

Week 4:

Monday, March 3: ...or Victorious?

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

Wednesday, March 5: Chihuahua: Foreign Enterprise

- Reading due: Mark Wasserman, *Capitalists, Caciques, and Revolution*, Chapters 4-5, pp. 71-94 (on e-reserve).
- **5-page Paper due**

Friday, March 7: Chihuahua: Revolution

- Reading due: Wasserman, *Capitalists, Caciques, and Revolution*, Chapters 6-8, pp. 95-130 (on e-reserve).
- **Map Quiz**

Week 5:

Monday, March 10: Pancho Villa

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

Wednesday, March 12: Inside Villa’s Ranks, Part I

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

Friday, March 14: Inside Villa’s Ranks, Part II

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

Week 6:

Monday, March 17: 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, March 19: 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
- Handout: Critical Thinking exercise

Friday, March 21: NO CLASS

SPRING BREAK – ENJOY!

Week 7:

Monday, March 31: Land and the Revolution

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

Wednesday, April 2: MIDTERM EXAM

Part II: The Institutionalized Revolution, 1920-1940

Friday, April 4: 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).

Week 8:

Monday, April 7: A Cultural Revolution

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

Wednesday, April 9: 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**

Friday, April 11: The Mexican Muralists, Part II

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

Week 9:

Monday, April 14: Frida Kahlo

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

Wednesday, April 16: 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).

Friday, April 18: 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).

Week 10:

Monday, April 21: Discussion of the Revolutionary Trilogy of films

- **Source Report due**

Wednesday, April 23: 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).

Friday, April 25: 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).

Week 11:

Monday, April 28: 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).

Wednesday, April 30: 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).

Friday, May 2: 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).

Week 12:

Monday, May 5: The Border Today

- Reading due: Daniel Rothenberg, *With These Hands: The Hidden World of Migrant Farmworkers Today*, Chapter 5, “Pasando al otro lado: The US/Mexico Border,” pp. 121-153 (on e-reserve).

Wednesday, May 7: 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).
- Handout: The Oral Presentation

Friday, May 9: 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).
- Handout: Final exam study questions
- Handout: Guidelines for Research Paper

Week 13:

Monday, May 12: Oral Presentations

Wednesday, May 14: Oral Presentations

Friday, May 16: Oral Presentations

Week 14:

Monday, May 19: Oral Presentations

Wednesday, May 21: Oral Presentations

The Research Paper will be due no later than 5PM on Tuesday, May 27.

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 Dr. Rao, failure of the course. Students who dispute an allegation of academic dishonesty may request a hearing before a joint student/faculty honor board.

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.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) work together to ensure 'reasonable accommodation' and non-discrimination for students with disabilities in higher education. A student who has a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, learning, or attentional disability that may have an effect on the student's ability to complete assigned course work should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Advising Center, who will review the concerns and decide with the student what accommodations are necessary.