

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
MEXICAN CULTURE THROUGH THE ARTS
SPN 470 - CID: 7313
TIME: Summer 2008

Instructor: Dr. Enrique Mallen
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an in-depth introduction to Mexican Art, Culture and Civilization. Utilizing lectures, readings, videos, in-class assignments, and discussions, students will examine the historical antecedents as well as contemporary expressions and institutions that help constitute the Mexican cultural experience. In addition, this course will explore the social dynamics underlying the production of Mexican American identity. Major course topics will include: the historical foundations of Mexican culture, cultural expressions and institutions, cultural assimilation, and contemporary cultural expressions.

GOALS OF THE COURSE: Moving beyond static portrayals of Mexicans, this course will present students with a perspective that considers culture as emergent, contested, and often contradictory. Students will not only be invited to consider how social, political, and economic influences mediate the representations Mexicans create of themselves, but also contemplate the factors influencing the construction of the "Mexican American" in anthropology, the social sciences, and in American society in general.

TEXTBOOKS:

- * Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs (Fifth Edition). by Michael D. Coe, Rex Koontz. Thames & Hudson. 2002
- * The Art of Mesoamerica (World of Art) (Paperback). by Mary Ellen Miller. Thames & Hudson. 2001

COMPUTATION OF YOUR GRADE:

4 Compositions	40%
4 Exams	50%
Field trip participation	10%

GRADING COMPOSITIONS: The grade (10%) for the final version of each composition will be based on the following profile:

1. **Focus/Content:** Degree in which the reader questions have been anticipated in selecting information. Selection of information: Topic well-thought-out and developed with effective supporting detail. (50%)
2. **Organization:** Clear thesis and flow of ideas fluid and logical. Outline (30%)
3. **Vocabulary:** Language choices appropriate for topic, purpose and reader. Richness and accuracy of vocabulary (20%)

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY: You are only permitted three absent hours, after that for each hour missed 1% will be deducted from your semester grade. Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are required to complete any in-class work or due assignments, and be informed of any other due assignments. To that effect you may e-mail an attachment of your assignment to the instructor.

Student Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

SPN 470 - TENTATIVE TOPICS - SUMMER 2008

- I. Arts of Ancient Mexico
 - A. Olmecs and the foundation of artistic traditions
 - B. Teotihuacan and the Central Valley
 - C. Maya of southern Mexico and Central America
 - D. Toltecs of Tula & Toltec-Mayans of Chichen-Itza in the Yucatan
 - E. Mixtec-Zapotec traditions
 - F. Aztecs and Tenochtitlan
 - G. Cultural traditions of the American Southwest

- II. Other Pre-Colombian Artistic Traditions
 - A. Coastal cultures of South America
 - B. Andean cultures and the Inca

- III. The Conquista and the Arts
 - A. Impact on native traditions
 - B. Acculturation in the early colonial period

- IV. Colonial Mexico and Related Areas
 - A. Baroque arts in Spain
 - B. Colonial adaptations of the Baroque

- V. Post-colonial Arts in Mexico and Related Areas
 - A. The Revolution of 1910 and mural art
 - B. Recent artistic developments

- VI. Mexico

- VII. Other areas of Hispanic America