

**Universidad Latina de America
International Exchange Program
Morelia, Michoacán
Fall 2005**

Course Title: **Socio-Psychology of Mexicans**

Instructor: Sarah Champ

Hours: Tuesday 1-2, Thursday 1-2, Friday 10:30-12:30

Description: What does it mean to be part of a nation—specifically Mexico? What constitutes Mexican culture? And who considers themselves a Mexican? This class will approach these questions of Mexican culture and identity through a historical lens. We will read essays by important Mexican thinkers as well as essays that delve into the history of many cultural practices that are now known as 'Mexican.' Not all authors agree, but you should leave class with a basic understanding of canonical works in Mexican anthropology. You should also leave with deeper understanding of how political, economic and social changes within a particular geographical area directly affect identity and culture.

Required Texts: A course packet will be available at the Copy Center

Evaluation:

I will give **5 mini-quizzes**. They will be short, given in the first 15 minutes of class and will pertain to the days reading. They are collectively worth 30% of your grade.

I also require **2 reflection papers** on 2 different authors. These reflections should be 2-3 pages, typed, and double spaced. The first paragraph should briefly describe the essays point on which you wish to comment. What remains should be a thoughtful consideration of the idea presented in the text. They are each worth 10%. One is due September 29th and the second is due November 3d.

There will be a **final exam** on the last day of classes that encompasses the reading for the semester. This is worth 20%.

The remaining 30% is reserved for **class presentations**. In groups of 2, you will be responsible for leading class discussion one time during the semester. These presentations should last no longer than 15 minutes and should cover one or two points in the days reading that were particularly interesting to you.

Finally, class participation is key to learning, so you should fulfill the following expectations: consistent attendance, arriving to class on time, and class preparation (having read and being ready to discuss the assigned material).

I ACCEPT NO LATE REFLECTION PAPERS, NOR DO I GIVE MAKE UP MINI-QUIZZES unless there is a documented and legitimate reason that you missed the due date.

No sleeping, no laptops, no cell phones! Thank you.

“Psychoanalysis of the Mexican” Samuel Ramos

“The Cosmic Race” Jose Vasconcelos

“The Problem With National Culture” Guillermo Bonfil Batalla

“The Selling of Mexico: Tourism and the State” Alex Saragoza

“A La Chingada” Bonfil Batalla, Guillermo

Movie: La Ley de Herodes

“Telenovela” Sam Quinones

“Mexican Masks” Paz, Octavio

“The Day of the Dead” Paz, Octavio

“The *Jotos* of La Fogata” Sam Quinones

“Does It Mean Anything to be Mexican?” Bartra, Roger

Movie: Cantinflas

“Tepito” Sam Quinones

“Fissures in Contemporary Mexican Nationalism” Lomtiz, Claude

“The Long Journey From Despair to Hope” Subcomandante Marcos

“Mexico City 1992” Alma Guillermoprieto

“San Quintin” Sam Quinones

“Masked Media: The Adventures of Lucha Libre on the Small Screen” Heather Levi

Movie: El Santo