Contemporary Mexican Culture  
ANTH 3361/SOCI 3361  

Fall 2017  
Mondays/Wednesdays 1:30-2:50 pm  
Liberal Arts Building 222  

Office Hours:  
Mondays/Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am (UTEP Library, First Floor—by coffee shop)  
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm (CIBS building, 1514 Hawthorne Street)  
Or by appointment  

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Course Description  
With more than 100 million inhabitants across its 750,000 square miles of territory, Mexico is a vast and diverse country. Mexico’s diversity makes it hard to speak of “one Mexico,” as the multiple, and sometimes contradicting, histories and struggles of Mexican peoples show. This course analyzes Mexico’s contemporary cultural diversity by looking at recent historical events through the lenses of racial, ethnic, sexual, class, and youth identities; in particular, in this course we will study how these identities intersect and impact political events and social movements in Mexico since the 1950s. Taking the state’s appropriation of the Mexican Revolution as a starting point, students will engage with readings on Mexico’s racial identities and mestizaje policies; Mexico’s youth and countercultural movements in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as its relation to the Cold War. Students will also discuss Mexico’s “modernization” attempts, and the increasing demands for sexual orientation and gender equality. Students will also read about recent social movements, like those connected to the Teachers’ Union uprising in the southern state of Oaxaca and Guerrero.  

Required Texts (according to schedule readings):  

Readings that are not part of these books will be available on Blackboard.  

Assignments and Grading:  

Readings: Students are expected to read all of the required readings for the days assigned to each of the readings. You can find the readings on Blackboard.  

In-class Participation/Attendance (30%): Students are expected to attend and arrive on time to every class meeting. Students are also expected to complete and turn in in-class written
assignments, and to participate in group discussions. Students are also expected to participate in meaningful and respectful discussion by asking questions and engaging with the material.

Written reactions (30%): Students must submit reactions to the readings every day when the class meets through Blackboard. The first reaction is due on Monday of week 3 and the last reaction is due on Wednesday of week 14. Reactions should be uploaded before class to be counted towards the grade. Reactions are not summaries of the readings but rather your own thoughts and feelings about the article. Reactions should be two or three sentences long, well-written, and should address the topic of the article in question. Students may miss up to TWO reactions, but afterwards each missing reaction mean a two point subtraction from the total of the possible grade.

Movie reactions (20%): Students must submit written reactions to two of the following films watched in class: Los Olvidados; Santo Luzbel; Canoa; A Placed Called Chiapas; Amores Perros. Alternatively, students can also substitute ONE movie reaction from a film watched in class for one of the following films—that the students will have to find on their own: Un Mundo Maravilloso; Callejón de los Milagros; Sexo, pudor y lágrimas; Cómo Agua para Chocolate; etc… Students can also consult with me about a particular film they would like to “review.” Reactions should be handed-in during class no later than one-week after the movie was watched in class. Movie reactions should use authors and concepts discussed in class. Format: Times New Roman 12pts, 2 pages, double-space. The reaction has to be well organized and well-written.

Final Research Paper (20%): Final research paper: Pick an event/topic that has happened/appeared in the media after 2000 [Possible topics are: Autodefensas (community organized defense groups), teacher’s movements, social movements for gender equality, the “Mexican Spring,” etc.]. Use the relevant literature to analyze it. Format: Times New Roman 12pts, 10 pages, double-space, and citations. Please come to my office hours to discuss your topic, or email me. The paper has to be written as an academic essay; it must include introduction, body, conclusion, and references. Specific information will be provided during the semester.

Extra-Credit Options: Extra-credit options will be available throughout the course and will be discussed in a timely way.

Classroom Etiquette: Students should observe the appropriate behavior for an academic atmosphere. This means that students must arrive on time, and be respectful of other students around them. Cell phones should be turned off, or in silence mode, and they should be put away. If there is a serious need to be attentive to your phone, such as a family emergency, please let me know before the class starts. Laptop use is discouraged but if you need to use your laptop to take notes please let me know; you will be asked to sit in first rows of the classroom. During class discussions you must be respectful of others’ opinions and participation. This means that you should not interrupt others. Please be aware that not complying with the classroom etiquette might affect your grade.

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit
the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to hold the highest standard of academic integrity. This means that you must write all of your papers and other assignments yourself, and cite sources appropriately, not doing so is a serious matter and any such activity will be reported to the University. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is please consult the following webpage:

http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as needed during the semester. I will notify you of these changes through email.

**Scheduled Readings:**

**Week 1:**
- **Monday:** No required reading
  
  (2) Watch: Los Olvidados (Luis Buñuel, 1950)

**Week 2:**
- **Monday:** No Class/Labor Day!
- **Wednesday:** (1) Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities* [Excerpts]
  
  (2) Vasconcelos, Jose. *The Cosmic Race* [Excerpts]

**Week 3:**
  
  
  (3) Watch: Being Black in Latin America (Mexico/Peru).

**Week 4:**
- **Wednesday:** In-class: Watch: Santo Luzbel (Miguel Sabido, 1997) in class.
Week 5:


Week 6:


Wednesday: In-class: Watch: Canoa (Felipe Cazals, 1976)

Week 7:


Week 8:


**Week 10:**

**Monday:** (1) Chapters 1 and 2 from Heather Levi’s *The World of Lucha Libre*.

**Wednesday:** (1) Chapters 3 and 4 from Heather Levi’s *The World of Lucha Libre*.

**Week 11:**

**Monday:** (1) Chapters 5 and 6, and Conclusion from Heather Levi’s *The World of Lucha Libre*.

(2) In-class: Watch: Tales of Masked Men


**Week 12:**

**Monday:** (1) In Class: Watch: A Place Called Chiapas (Nettie Wild, 1998)


**Week 13:**


(3) In-class: Being watching: *Amores Perros*

**Week 14:**


**Wednesday:** Class Cancelled!

**Week 15:**

