

University of Chicago

INTENSIVE STUDY OF A CULTURE: LOWLAND MAYA HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

Latin American and Caribbean Studies 20400/30401, Anthropology 21230/30705,
Comparative Human Development 20400/30401, Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies 20400

Meetings: Autumn Quarter 2010, TuTh 3:00-4:20, SS 108
Instructor: John A. Lucy; Email <jlucy@uchicago.edu>; Office HD S 103
Office Hours: TuTh by appointment, call 2-3971
Assistant: Christopher Bloechl <cbloechl@uchicago.edu>; Office: TBA
Office Hours: by appointment via email.

Requirements

Substantial reading. Class will consist of discussion of the readings supplemented by lectures. Students will be asked to bring to each class a written discussion question or criticism arising from the reading. One half of the grade will be based on these questions and participation at this level is sufficient for receiving a P in the course. Students wishing a quality grade will also be required to write a 15- to 20-page paper exploring some problem in Mayan history or ethnography in greater depth. The aim is that students should consult some additional materials beyond the required readings in the course. Paper topics should be discussed with and approved by the instructor or assistant in advance. This paper will represent the remaining one half of the grade.

Topics and Primary Readings

All readings will be on reserve. Items marked * available at the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

Week	Topic:	Principal Reading
1-	Introduction	
1-	Contact and Conquest I:	T. Todorov, <i>The Conquest of America</i> *
2-	Contact and Conquest II:	T. Todorov, <i>The Conquest of America</i>
2-	Contact and Conquest III:	M. Restall, <i>Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest</i> *
3-	Settlement and Conversion I:	I. Clendinnen, <i>Ambivalent Conquests</i> *
3-	Settlement and Conversion II:	M. Restall, <i>Maya Conquistador</i>
4-	Colonial Order I:	N. Farriss, <i>Maya Society Under Colonial Rule</i> *
4-	Colonial Order II:	N. Farriss, <i>Maya Society Under Colonial Rule</i>
5-	Colonial Order III:	N. Farriss, <i>Maya Society Under Colonial Rule</i>
5-	Colonial Order IV:	M. Restall, <i>The Maya World: Yucatec Culture and Society, 1550-1850</i>
6-	Independence and the Caste War I:	N. Reed, <i>The Caste War of Yucatan</i> *
6-	Independence and the Caste War II:	N. Reed, <i>The Caste War of Yucatan</i>
7-	World Market and Revolution I:	T. Rugeley, <i>Of Wonders and Wise Men</i> *
7-	World Market and Revolution II:	G. Joseph, <i>Revolution from Without</i> *
8-	Early Twentieth Century Ejido Life I:	R. Redfield & A. Villa, <i>Chan Kom: A Maya Village</i>
8-	Early Twentieth Century Ejido Life II:	R. Redfield & A. Villa, <i>Chan Kom: A Maya Village</i>
9-	Late Twentieth Century Town Life:	R. Thompson, <i>The Winds of Tomorrow</i>
9-	<Thanksgiving>	
10-	Local Village and Global City:	A. Re Cruz, <i>The Two Milpas of Chan Kom</i> *

Detailed Reading Assignments

- 1- 9/28 **Introduction**
Required (none)
- Recommended:
E. Wolf, *Sons of the Shaking Earth* (esp. chs. 8-11)
- 9/30 **Contact and Conquest I**
Required (125 pp):
T. Todorov, *The Conquest of America* (1-125)
- Recommended:
B. Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain* (esp. 15-87)
Unknown, *The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico* (pp. 127-149)
C. Mann, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus* (esp. chs. 1, 4, 8, 10)
- 2- 10/5 **Contact and Conquest II**
Required (130 pp):
T. Todorov, *The Conquest of America* (126-254)
- 10/7 **Contact and Conquest III**
Required (86 pp):
M. Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest* (chs. 1-3, 5: 1-63, 77-99)
- Recommended:
I. Clendinnen, "Fierce and unnatural cruelty": Cortés and the conquest of Mexico, in S. Greenblatt (ed.) 1993, *New World Encounters* (12-47).
S. Cline, Revisionist conquest history: Sahagún's revised Book XII, in J. Klor de Alva, H. Nicholson, and E Quiñones-Keber (eds.) 1988, *The Work of Bernardino de Sahagún: Pioneer Ethnographer of Sixteenth-Century Aztec Mexico* (93-106).
- 3- 10/12 **Settlement and Conversion I: Spaniard**
Required (155 pp):
G. Foster, The concept of "conquest culture," *Culture and Conquest: America's Spanish Heritage* (pp. 10-20)
I. Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570* (pp. 1-128, 190-207)
- Recommended:
I. Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests* (pp. 131-189)
R. Chamberlain, *The Conquest and Colonization of Yucatan, 1517-1550*.
S. Tax, *Heritage of Conquest* (esp. pp. 17-30)
- 10/14 **Settlement and Conversion II: Maya**

Required (85 pp):

M. Restall, *Maya Conquistador* (chs 2, 5, 6: pp. 29-50, 82-94, 104-121)

D. de Landa, *Relacion de las cosas de Yucatan* (Tozzer trans., pp. 62-64, 85-132)

Recommended

R. Roys, *The Indian Background of Colonial Yucatan* (1-97)

V. Bricker, The Maya view of the conquest [of Yucatan], in *The Indian Christ, the Indian King* (pp. 24-28)

W. Hanks, *Converting Words: Maya in the Age of the Cross*.

W. Hanks, "Discourse Genres in a Theory of Practice" *American Ethnologist*, 1987, 14(4): 668-692.

F. Scholes and R. Roys, *The Maya Chontal Indians of Acalan-Tixchel* (pp. 74-122, 383-405)

4- 10/19 **Colonial Order I**

Required (115 pp):

N. Farriss, *Maya Society Under Colonial Rule: The Collective Enterprise of Survival* (pp. 3-116)

Recommended:

G. Jones, *Maya Resistance to Spanish Rule*

S. Kellogg and M. Restall (Eds.), *Dead Giveaways: Indigenous Testaments of Colonial Mesoamerica and the Andes*

10/21 **Colonial Order II**

Required (110 pp):

N. Farriss, *Maya Society under Colonial Rule* (117-226)

5- 10/26 **Colonial Order III**

Required (124 pp):

N. Farriss, *Maya Society under Colonial Rule* (227-351)

Recommended:

N. Farriss, *Maya Society under Colonial Rule* (355-396)

10/28 **Colonial Order IV**

Required (104 pp)

M. Restall *The Maya World: Yucatec Culture and Society, 1550-1850* (chs 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12: pp. 13-19, 87-165)

Recommended:

N. Farriss, *Maya Society under Colonial Rule* (355-396)

R. Patch, *Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan 1648-1812*

6- 11/2 **Independence and the Caste War I**

Required (158 pp):

N. Reed, *The Caste War of Yucatan* (1-158)

Recommended:

T. Rugeley, *Yucatán's Maya Peasantry and the Origins of the Caste War*

J. Stephens, *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan* (2 vols) (esp. I: 1-22, 91-93)

G. Jones (ed.), *Anthropology and History in Yucatan*

D. Dumond, *The Machete and the Cross: Campesino Rebellion in Yucatan*

11/4 **Independence and the Caste War II**

Required (124 pp):

N. Reed, *The Caste War of Yucatan* (159-282)

Recommended:

V. Bricker, *The Indian Christ, The Indian King: The Historical Substrate of Maya Myth and Ritual* (pp. 119-125, 185-205, 256, 260-272; also chs. 5, 8)

K. Gosner, *Soldiers of the Virgin* (106-159)

7- 11/9 **World Market and Revolution I**

Required (167 pp):

T. Rugeley, *Of Wonders and Wise Men: Religion and Popular Cultures in Southeast Mexico, 1800-1876* (xiii-xxvii, 1-167)

Recommended:

A. Wells, *Yucatan's Gilded Age: Haciendas, Henequen, and International Harvester, 1860-1915*

T. Sanders, "Henequen: The Structure of Agrarian Frustration"

11/11 **World Market and Revolution II**

Required (181 pp):

G. Joseph, *Revolution from Without: Yucatán, Mexico, and the United States, 1880-1924* (pts. 1 & 3: 1-89, 185-287)

Recommended:

G. Joseph, *Revolution from Without* (pt. 2: 90-184)

G. Joseph, *Rediscovering the Past at Mexico's Periphery*

8- 11/16 **Early Twentieth Century Ejido Life I**

Required (115 pp):

R. Redfield & A. Villa, *Chan Kom: A Maya Village* (pp. 1-115)
[copies on reserve and photocopy master available]

Recommended:

B. Fallaw, *Cárdenas Compromised, The Failure of Reform in Postrevolutionary Yucatán*

A. Villa, *The Maya of East Central Quintana Roo*

R. Redfield, *The Folk Culture of Yucatan*

11/18 **Early Twentieth Century Ejido Life II**

Required (115 pp):

R. Redfield & A. Villa, *Chan Kom: A Maya Village* (115-230)
[copies on reserve and photocopy master available]

Recommended:

R. Redfield, *A Village that Chose Progress: Chan Kom Revisited*

V. Goldkind, Social stratification in the peasant community: Redfield's Chan Kom reinterpreted, *American Anthropologist*, 1965, 67(4), 863-884.

P. Sullivan, *Unfinished Conversations: Mayas and Foreigners between Two Wars* (1-222)

D. Rhoads, *The Corn Grows Ripe* [children's book]

9- 11/23 **Late Twentieth Century Town Life**

Required (175 pp):

R. Thompson, *The Winds of Tomorrow: Social Change in a Maya Town* (1-174)
[copies on reserve and photocopy master available]

Recommended:

I. Press, *Tradition and Adaptation: Life in a Modern Yucatan Maya Village*

P. Hervik, *Mayan People within and beyond Boundaries: Social Categories and Lived Identity in Yucatan* (esp. 23-36, 91-130)

A. Burns, *An Epoch of Miracles: Oral Literature of the Yucatec Maya*

J. McGee, *Life, Ritual, and Religion Among the Lacandon Maya*

Y. Beyene, *From Menarche to Menopause: Reproductive Lives of Peasant Women in Two Cultures* [chs. 3, 5, 6 on the Yucatec Maya]

E. Moseley & E. Terry (eds.), *Yucatan: A World Apart* (esp. 122-41, 173-201, 202-44)

11/25 **No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday**

10- 12/1 **Local Ejido and Global City**

Required (102 pp): A. Re Cruz, *The Two Milpas of Chan Kom: Scenarios of a Maya Village Life* (ch. 3, 4: 36-789)

P. Hervik, *Mayan People within and beyond Boundaries: Social Categories and Lived Identity in Yucatan* (ch. 4-5: 91-130)

R. Loewe, *Maya or Mestizo: Nationalism, Modernity, and its Discontents* (ch. 3: 59-78)

Recommended:

R. Loewe, *Maya or Mestizo: Nationalism, Modernity, and its Discontents* (ch. 4)

W. Cornelius, D. Fitzgerald, and P. Lewin Fisher (eds.), *Mayan Journeys: The New Migration from Yucatán to the United States*.

M. Everton, *The Modern Maya* [photo essay]