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.

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

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)
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)

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.*
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*
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*
G. Jones (ed.), *Anthropology and History in Yucatan*
D. Dumond, *The Machete and the Cross: Campesino Rebellion in Yucatan*

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)

World Market and Revolution I
Required (167 pp):

Recommended:
A. Wells, *Yucatan's Gilded Age: Haciendas, Henequen, and International Harvester, 1860-1915*
T. Sanders, "Henequen: The Structure of Agrarian Frustration"

World Market and Revolution II
Required (181 pp):

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

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*
Early Twentieth Century Ejido Life II

11/18

Required (115 pp):
[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 
P. Sullivan, *Unfinished Conversations: Mayas and Foreigners between Two Wars* 
(1-222)

Late Twentieth Century Town Life

9-11/23

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]

No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday

11/25

Local Ejido and Global City

10-12/1

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