

# Spanish 314.01

Modernity, Mexican Style

Spring 2018

Carmichael 301

TT 10:30–11:45

Prereq: SPN 301



## Course Description

The idea of modern Mexico is a cacophony of dissonant images: packed tourist resorts, the mind numbing violence of the drug war, a resurgent Mexico City, maquiladoras along the border, indigenous groups still struggling for reconciliation, the obscene wealth of Carlos Slim, and a middle class struggling to keep up in a globalized world. But how did modern Mexico come to be as we know it today? This class will trace the modernization of 20<sup>th</sup> Mexico through its cultural production (primarily literature), from the time of Porfirio Díaz through the nation-building project, from the onda of the 1960s to the recent protests over the 2015 disappearance of the 43 students of Ayotzinapa.

## Course Objectives

You will come away from the class with not only a good reading of 20<sup>th</sup> century Mexican literature, but also a strong understanding of the fundamental forces that shaped (and continue to shape) the development of the nation as a whole. In the process, you will improve writing and reading skills in Spanish, as well as further develop presentation skills.

Dr. Doug P Bush



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Carmichael 305E

MWF 10-11

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Response Papers (4)	10%	A	93-100%	C	73-77
Final Research Presentation	10	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
In-class Presentation (2)	20	B+	88-89	D+	68-69
Participation & Attendance	15	B	83-87	D	63-67
Mid-term Exam	20	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
Final Essay	25	C+	78-79	F	<60

**Mid-term Grades:** Will be determined by work completed to that point in the semester. Because of that, it may be more heavily weighted towards some of the above categories than others.



## Course Components

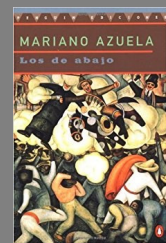
**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation is a **must** in this class. I permit three unexcused absences, after that, 2% will be deducted per absence. It adds up quickly. Certain absences will be excused, including university events that require student attendance (ie - sports), medical reasons and family emergencies with documented excuse. Participation is key in this class. While reading, I recommend taking extensive notes not only to remember plot-points, etc., but also interesting passages/points/emergent themes that you'd like to discuss in class. This will aid greatly in discussion and building ideas later on to explore in papers or essays.

**In class presentations:** Over the course of the semester you will do two presentations, one on a theme, and one on an article. Theme presentations are meant to give greater understanding/context to what we are doing that day, and

are generally fact-based. For article presentations, you will review the article for the class, laying out its arguments, etc. Finally, you will give a critical assessment of the article itself (strengths, weaknesses, overall), and then provide a couple of questions to help launch that day's discussion. Both presentations are worth 10% each and should be 10 minutes in length.

**Response Papers:** At different points in the semester, you will hand me a 1p response paper that explores thoughts/perspectives you had on that day's readings. It can be: a connection you made between a presentation and a reading, an off shoot of a comment in class, or anything else that's connected to the reading itself. These are great ways to develop a stable of ideas for the final presentation/essay, or conservation starters in

## Required Texts



Los de abajo (Mariano Azuela)

ISBN: 978-0140266214



Nostalgia de la sombra (Eduardo Antonio Parra)

ISBN: 978-9682708701

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Antecedents	6 feb	Introducción	Cracks in National Project	27 mar	Álbum de familia (Castellanos)
	8 feb	México colonial		29 mar	La noche de Tlateloclo (Ponia..)
	13 feb	México en el siglo XIX		3 abr	Descanso de primavera
	15 feb	Rebelión (Traven)		5 abr	Descanso de primavera
Revolución	20 feb	Los de abajo (Azuela)		12 abr	Compro, luego existo (Loeaza)
	22 feb	Los de abajo (Azuela)		14 abr	Nostalgia de la sombra (Parra)
	27 feb	Los de abajo (Azuela)		17 abr	Nostalgia de la sombra (Parra)
	1 mar	Conferencia		19 abr	Conferencia (no hay clase)
	6 mar	Los de abajo (Azuela)		24 abr	Nostalgia de la sombra (Parra)
Rrbuilding the Nation	8 mar	¿Qué es modernidad?		26 abr	Nostalgia de la sombra (Parra)
	13 mar	La raza.. (Vasconcelos)		1 may	Nostalgia de la sombra (Parra)
	15 mar	Nos han dado (Rulfo)		3 may	Nostalgia de la sombra (Parra)
	20 mar	Mid-term exam	8 may	Los Zapatistas	
	22 mar	Película: Los olvidados	10 may	Presentaciones	

## Course Components (continued)

class. There are no specific due dates - pass them in when you feel inspired, but be sure to pace yourself as I will not accept more than one response per reading. 4 responses total x 2% each.

**Research Presentation:** On the last day of the semester we will present our research (final essay) topics in the form of 10 minute presentations done on Powerpoint/Prezi/similar. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance to develop an idea within a reasonable amount of time during the semester. You will be graded based upon the intelligibility of your presentation and how you handle any questions or comments you may receive.

**Mid-Term Exam:** Roughly one-hour in length, it will test upon what we've done until that point. More details to come closer to the exam date.

**Final essay:** As with any other essay, you will pick a theme (or themes) in one work (or several) and explore them with a well-defined thesis statement. Hopefully, the 5 response papers will give you a running start. 1500-1800 words with at least 5 academic sources.

**Submitting Work:** We will do some work on paper, and other work online. I will specify in-class how I would like each assignment submitted. Late work is generally not ac-



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## Important Course, Department and College Policies

**Converse Honor Code:** The Honor Tradition of Converse College is based on the premise that you have the responsibility to uphold the highest standards of personal integrity (including respect for other students' dignity, rights, and property) and to help foster a civil and productive learning environment. Therefore, your coursework must be pledged and conform to the college's policy on academic integrity. All instances of suspected dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication) will be reported to the Honor Board. For detailed information on these policies, see your Student Handbook [[https://my.converse.edu/ICS/Campus\\_Life/Student\\_Conduct\\_and\\_Policies.jnz](https://my.converse.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/Student_Conduct_and_Policies.jnz)]

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability that requires special assistance, please contact me privately and Tania

McDuffie, Assistant Dean of Academic Support [206D Montgomery Hall; x9027, [Tania.McDuffie@Converse.edu](mailto:Tania.McDuffie@Converse.edu)]. All information and documentation regarding your disability will remain strictly confidential.

**Title IX:** Converse College is committed to offering a safe campus for all community members to learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. This includes upholding a zero tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct.

Please be aware that there are some reporting requirements that are part of my job at Converse. If you inform me or write about having survived sexual assault or sexual misconduct while a student at Converse College by a member of the Converse community, or if I witness sexual misconduct at Converse College, I will keep the in-

formation as private as I can. I am required to bring it to the attention of the Title IX Coordinator.

If you would prefer to speak to a Confidential Resource who will keep your information confidential, please contact a counselor in the Wellness Center (864-596-9258). They will not disclose any information you share. Converse is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a Confidential Resource.

As always, you may find the Converse College Title IX policy, related information, and contact resources [https://my.converse.edu/ICS/Employees/Human\\_Resources/Title\\_IX.jnz](https://my.converse.edu/ICS/Employees/Human_Resources/Title_IX.jnz)