HISTORY 1973X

THE MAYA IN THE MODERN WORLD

# Prof. Cope Fall 2014

This seminar focuses on the Maya in postcolonial Guatemala. The main theme will be the relationship between indigenous peoples and the nation-state. Topics will include the evolution of peasant communities; Maya strategies of resistance and rebellion; the military repression in Guatemala in the 1970s and 1980s; the Rigoberta Menchú controversy; indigenous political activism; and the development and redefinition of ethnic identities.

Our seminar meets once a week on Monday afternoons. Students are expected to attend regularly and participate in the discussion. Each student will also: 1) submit five short papers (one every other week). These papers will be analyses of the weekly readings, based on questions handed out by the instructor or selected by the student. They should be no longer than three pages, and will be due at the beginning of class; 2) prepare a longer paper (8-10 pages) which will engage broad themes from the course. This final paper will be due on December 15.

Grades will be based on these papers and on participation in the discussion.

Textbooks for this course (available at the University Bookstore and on reserve at the Rockefeller Library) are:

Dennis Tedlock, trans. and ed. *Popol Vuh: the Mayan Book of the Dawn of*

*Life*, rev. ed.

Nick Cullather, *Secret History: The CIA’s Classified Account of its Operations*

*In Guatemala, 1952-1954*

REHMI, *Guatemala, Never Again!*

Sheldon Annis, *God and Production in a Guatemalan Town*

Elisabeth Burgos-Debray, ed., *I, Rigoberta Menchú*

Victor Montejo, *Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village*

Beatriz Manz, *Paradise in Ashes: A Guatemalan Journey of Courage, Terror,*

*and Hope*

John P. Hawkins, James H. McDonald, and Walter Randolph Adams, ed., *Crisis*

*of Governance in Maya Guatemala*

We will also be using a reading packet, which be purchased at Allegra Print and Imaging. The packet will not be on reserve.

HIST 1973X

page two

The course schedule and weekly readings are given below.

8 Sept. Orientation

W. George Lovell, “Surviving Conquest: The Maya of

Guatemala in Historical Perspective,” *Latin American*

*Research Review*, 23(2), 1988, pp. 25-57 (online reserve)

15 Sept. Maya Cosmologies through Time and Space

Dennis Tedlock, trans. and ed. *Popol Vuh*, pp. 21-60, 63-142

Nancy M. Farriss, “The Cosmic Order in Crisis,” in *Atlantic*

*American Societies*, ed. Alan L. Karras and J.R. McNeil,

pp. 99-143 (Packet Item #1)

Robert Carlsen, *The War for the Heart and Soul of a*

*Highland Maya Town*, pp.47-99 (Packet Item #2)

Video: *Popol Vuh*

22 Sept. The Carrera Revolt and Conservative Rule

John Lynch, *Caudillos in Spanish America*, *1800-1850*, pp.

365-401 (Packet Item #3)

Ralph Lee Woodward, *Rafael Carrera and the Emergence of*

*Guatemala*, 1821-1871, pp. 247-281, 418-434,456-470

(Packet Item #4)

René Reeves, *Ladinos with Ladinos, Indians with Indians*,

pp. 1-15, 35-63, 69-102 (electronic book)

Douglass Sullivan González, *Piety, Power, and Politics: Religion*

*and Nation Formation in Guatemala, 1821-1871*, pp. 81-119

(Packet Item #5)

HIST 1973X

page three

29 Sept. The “Indian Problem”

David McCreery, “State Power, Indigenous Communities, and Land in Nineteenth-Century Guatemala,” in Carol A. Smith, ed.

*Guatemalan Indians and the State*, pp. 96-115 (Packet Item #6)

# Greg Grandin, *The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and*

*Nation*, pp. 130-197 (Packet Item #7)

Greg Grandin, Deborah T. Levenson, & Elizabeth Oglesby, ed.,

*The Guatemalan Reader*, pp. 125-137 (Packet Item #8)

Carol A. Smith, “Origins of the National Question in

Guatemala: A Hypothesis” and Richard N. Adams,

“Ethnic Images and Strategies in 1944,” in Smith,

pp. 72-95, 141-172 (Packet Item #9)

6 Oct. Reform and Resistance

*The Guatemalan Reader*, pp. 201-210, 214-220 (Packet Item #10)

Nick Cullather, *Secret History: The CIA’s Classified Account*

*of its Operations in Guatemala, 1952-1954*, 2nd. ed., entire

Jim Handy, “‘The Most Precious Fruit of the Revolution’: the

Guatemalan Agrarian Reform, 1952-54,” *Hispanic American*

*Historical Review*, 68:4 (Nov. 1988), pp. 675-705 (online reserve)

13 Oct. FALL WEEKEND – NO CLASS

20 Oct. The Military, the Left, and the Maya

REHMI, *Guatemala, Never Again!* pp. 190-211

Betsy Konefal, *For Every Indio Who Falls: A History of*

*Maya Activism in Guatemala, 1960-1990*, pp. 11-110

(electronic book)

Mario Payeras, *Days of the Jungle*, entire (Packet Item #11)

27 Oct. Peasant Life in the 1970s

Sheldon Annis, *God and Production in a Guatemalan*

*Town*, entire

Rigoberta Menchú, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, pp. 1-86

HIST 1973X

page four

# 3 Nov. Testimonies of Violence

Victor Montejo, *Testimony*, entire

REHMI, *Guatemala,* *Never Again!* pp. 228-242, 105-174,

3-72

# 10 Nov. The Menchú/Stoll Controversy

Menchú, pp. 87-200

David Stoll, *Rigoberta Menchú and the Story of All Poor*

*Guatemalans*, pp. 29-40, 63-88, 159-200 (Packet Item #12)

Arturo Arias, ed., *The Rigoberta Menchú Controversy*,

pp. 141-155, 288-308, 372-391 (Packet Item #13)

17 Nov. The Struggle for Community

Beatriz Manz, *Paradise in Ashes*, pp. 48-246

24 Nov. Maya Social Movements: Activism and Ethnicity

Konefal, pp. 111-178 (electronic book)

Demetrio Cojtí Cuxil, “The Politics of Maya Revindication,”

(Packet Item #14)

Edward F. Fischer, *Cultural Logics and Global Economics*,

pp. 83-137 (electronic book)

Walter Little, “Outside of Social Movements: Dilemmas

of Indigenous Handicrafts Vendors in Guatemala,”

(Packet Item #15)

Kay B. Warren, “Voting Against Indigenous Rights in

Guatemala” (Packet Item #16)

1 Dec. NO CLASS

8 Dec. After the Peace Accords

John P. Hawkins, James H. McDonald, and Walter Randolph

Adams, eds., *Crisis of Governance in Guatemala*, pp. 13-49,

86-114, 149-174, 195-242

Charles R. Hale, *Más Que un Indio*, pp. 137-165 Packet Item #17)

15 Dec. FINAL PAPER DUE (12:00 Noon)

HIST 1973X

page 5

Students are expected to abide by Brown’s academic code, which can be found here: <http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/academic_code.php>

My office hours for this semester are Wednesday, 2:00-3:30 PM, and Thursday, 10:00-11:30 AM. My office is in the Peter Green House (79 Brown Street), #004. Appointments at other hours can be arranged by phone: 863-3161 (office), 863-2131 (messages), or 545-0789 (cell). I can also be reached by email: [Robert\_Cope@brown](mailto:Robert_Cope@brown).edu.