1. Objective
This course offers an introduction to Mexican culture, through the view of two of its most outstanding intellectuals of the 20th Century: Octavio Paz and Carlos Fuentes. The most influential cultural, social and ideological events and figures from the Colonial period to our days will be reviewed. In addition, a field trip to visit the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum and the International Latino Cultural Center in Chicago will be offered. If for any reason this field trip could not be carried out, another extra-academic activity will be offered.

2. Method
Three are three core sources in this course: A group of essays on Mexican cultural history (Octavio Paz); a panoramic historic vision on Mexico and Latin America (B. Burns); and a video series on Spanish and Spanish-American Civilization (Carlos Fuentes). Class discussion will also include the screening of several films.

3. Evaluation
Assistance/ Class participation 50%
Oral presentation and handout 20%
5 Film commentaries 15%
Essay (5 pp., double spaced) 15%

4. Requirements
You will receive one of the following grades at the end of your participation in this on-campus Winter Term course: "S" (Satisfactory); "D" (D) and "U" (Unsatisfactory). A
"U" represents a failing grade and students receiving this grade will not earn a WT credit. First-year students who get a "U" will be expected to do an on-campus course next year.

Your final grade will be based on your class participation (50%), an oral presentation (15%), five written film commentaries (15%) and a written final essay (15%) which represent your total grade (100%). In order to receive a "S", you will need to get an 80% out of this total grade, as a minimum.

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are required to read the assigned material before class, and to have an active participation in class discussions. There is a 5% penalty of your final grade for each unexcused absence. Late assignments will not be accepted. Oral presentations should be 15 to 20 minutes long (20 to 25 for commentaries on literary texts). For the oral presentations, the students may choose one of the topics assigned by the professor or they may choose any other related topic (previously approved by the professor).

Films assigned for viewing in class are mandatory and the students are required to write five (5) commentaries (one double space typed page) on such films. A final essay (four double space typed pages) should be turned in on the last day of classes. Topics will be announced in class.

5. Basic Materials (available at Fine Print):

* Octavio Paz, El Laberinto de la Soledad [The Labyrinth of Solitude] English version

6. Films and documentaries:

Yo, La Peor de Todas [I The Worst of All] (1990) Director: Maria Luisa Bemberg.
All films will be subtitled in English

7. Field trip to Chicago

"The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (MFACM) sits in the heart of the Pilsen/Little Village community, the largest Mexican community in Chicago. The purpose of the Museum is to stimulate and preserve the knowledge and appreciation of the Mexican culture as it manifests itself in and outside of Mexico. As the largest Mexican or Latino arts institution in the nation, the MFACM has been recognized with numerous accolades including becoming the first and only Mexican or Latino museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums (www.mfacmchicago.com) The International Latino
Cultural Center has as its main mission to develop, promote and increase awareness of Latino Culture among Latinos and other communities through film and video events, education and other art forms"/www.latinoculturalcenter.org

8. TENTATIVE PROGRAM / Jan 7 – Jan 28

Wk. 1
Wednesday – Jan 7  Introduction to course
Video: The Buried Mirror II. Conflict of Gods by Carlos Fuentes

Thursday -- Jan 8  Indigenous Civilizations: Mayas and Aztecs
Indian-Spanish: The debate between encounter and conquest.
In Bradford Burns: “The origins of a Multiracial Society,” 1-28
Film: Cabeza de Vaca
Preparation of a written statement on the film

Wk. 2
Monday -- Jan 12  Mexico and Cultural Hibridity
In Octavio Paz: “The sons of La Malinche,” 65-88/ summaries
Close reading & concepts / Presentation 1

Tuesday -- Jan 13  Institutions of the Empire and Culture.
In Burns: “The Institutions of Empire,” pp. 29-60
Film: I The Worst of All
Preparation of a written statement on the film / Presentation 2

Wednesday – Jan 14  A Mexican cultural tradition: Day of the Dead [Día de Muertos]
In Paz: “The Day of the Dead,” 47-64/ summaries
Video: Celebrating the Day of the Dead
Close reading & concepts/ Presentation 3

Thursday -- Jan 15  Field Trip to the Mexican Fine Arts Museum and Mexican Neighborhoods in Chicago (tentative)

Wk. 3
Monday -- Jan 19  Mexican Independence and the Lady of Guadalupe
In Burns: “Independence,” 70-83 / summaries
Video: The Buried Mirror IV. The Price of Freedom
Presentation 4

Tuesday -- Jan 20  The Mexican Revolution I:
Land and liberty, Mexican Muralism
In Burns: “The Past Challenged,” 199-225/ summaries
Film: Zapata
Preparation of a written statement on the film / Presentation 5

Wednesday – Jan 21  The Mexican Revolution II:
Emiliano Zapata and Zapatismo today.
In Paz: “From Independence to the Revolution,” 117-149/ summaries
Video: Education in Resistance. Autonomous Education in Chiapas
Preparation of a written statement on the film / Presentation 6

Thursday -- Jan 22  The figure of Subcomandante Marcos
Stories of Subcomandante Marcos (additional material)
### Close readings & concepts

Film: *A Place Called Chiapas*  
Preparation of a written statement on the film / Presentation 7

#### Wk. 4

**Monday --Jan 26**  
Tlatelolco, 1968.  
The Global Border: Mexico-U.S. Relations  
In Paz: “The Present Day,” 175-194 / summaries  
Video: The Buried Mirror V. Unfinished Business  
Presentation 8

**Tuesday --Jan 27**  
Texts by Gloria Anzaldúa, *The New Mestiza* (additional material)  
Film: *My Family*  
Preparation of a written statement on the film / Presentation 9

**Wednesday –Jan 28**  
Mexico: A labyrinth of solitude  
Presentation 10 / Final Balance