

Summer 2015- 2nd Session - July 27- August 28 2015
LALS-75 - Diego Rivera: Art and Social Change in Latin America
Instructor-Greg Landau Ph.D



Mexican muralist Diego Rivera's work exemplifies the use of art to create and awareness of history and to promote social change in Latin America. This interdisciplinary class will explore the work of Diego Rivera and the Latin American cultural movements that developed to address relevant social and political issues.

Course Content

Week 1: Revolution and the Mexican Muralists

Week 2: The Changing Role of the Artist: Public Art

Week 3: Challenges to Political Art -The Modernists and Critics from the Left

Week 4: Culture and Revolution: Cuban Revolutionary Art - The Challenge of the Generation of the 1980's

Week 5: 8/25- 8/29- Art and Cultural Identity - Nicaraguan Revolutionary Art and the Zapatistas

Required Books

1. Mexican Muralists: Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros by Desmond Rochfort
2. Mexican Muralism: A Critical History by Alejandro Anreus, Robin Adèle Greeley & 1 more
3. Diego Rivera: My Art, My Life By Diego Rivera
4. Articles from Art and Revolution in Latin America by Davis Craven (will be available online)

This is a library guide to online resources you can use for your work:

<http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/lals75>

Films (will be available online)

1. The Sixth Sun: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas

2. Orozco: Man of Fire

3. Rivera in America

Assignments

1. Two-page essay on the influence of the Communist Manifesto on Mexican art of the 1920's.

2. Two Page essay on the Pan American Unity Mural

3. Midterm- 6 short essay questions based on the readings

4. Mini-mural- a student created graphic using the concepts of one of the artists we studied (can be a collage) -not graded

5. A five page research paper based on the topics covered in the course.

6. Final exam- five short essay questions

7. Participation in online forums and discussions

8. Online lectures and discussions every Saturday 10am through Adobe Connect. These will be recorded if you can't participate at that time.

Optional field trip to visit Diego Rivera's Pan American Unity Mural in San Francisco

A word about grading.

This course is about critical thinking and the appreciation of art. I won't expect you to memorize dates, places etc. but rather to dig into the artistic works we are studying to understand how they reflect the historical moments the artists are living in and to also understand how art has influenced social movements at the same time.

Grading will be based on your expression of original ideas based on the material we have covered. You can get a lot of the answers to the questions based on the assigned readings and links but you will also need to dig into your own experience and worldview to convey your thoughts. So... be brave, express your opinions and argue with me, your classmates and the authors if you need to.

A perfect essay answer will address the topic in depth, providing evidence to back up your arguments and clear examples. Please try not to generalize or be vague in your answers. I know it is difficult to write about art, many say it is like dancing about statistics, but you can look around at some of the ways that the authors we have read are able to explain complex art pieces. In the end, take your best shot, use your imagination and creativity and DO YOUR HOMEWORK!