Invoking an all-powerful deity to effect radical changes in the social and political order has deep roots in the Indigenous experience under Spanish rule. Efforts to restore or revitalize cultural identity and promote economic security cut across Mexico’s geography and reveal the extent to which religious understandings of material well-being intersected and conflicted with established political power, economic systems, and accepted social norms.

Historian Dr. Michael Brescia will provide a sweeping conceptual framework for understanding Indigenous resistance under Spanish rule during this course. Using case studies from Mexico’s colonial period (1521-1810), he will illustrate how native communities filtered their lived experiences through a religious and material framework in an effort to make sense of the challenges and burdens of Spanish colonialism, and how some of them revolted against colonial rule.

$35 donation per participant benefits Old Pueblo’s education programs ($28 for members of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center and members of Friends of Pueblo Grande Museum)

Donations are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 p.m. Wednesday September 7, whichever is earlier.

To register contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.

See next page for more information about the course.
Indigenous Forms of Resistance and Revolt in Colonial Mexico

Highlights of this course are Dr. Brescia’s critical appraisals of various forms of Indigenous resistance and revolt against the Spanish colonial enterprise, using four historical examples: the 1616-1620 Tepehuan Revolt in northwestern Mexico, the 1680-1692 Pueblo Revolt in northern New Mexico, the 1712-1713 Tzeltal Revolt in southern Mexico, and the Yaqui Revolt of 1740 in northwestern Mexico.

Instructor Michael Brescia, PhD, is Curator of Ethnohistory in the Arizona State Museum and has faculty affiliations with the Department of History and the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona.

He teaches a wide range of courses at the U of A, including Mexican and Borderlands history, the comparative history of North America, and historical research and method. He is co-author with John C. Super of North America: An Introduction, and of Mexico and the United States: Ambivalent Vistas (4th edition) with Dirk Raat. He led the curation of three major exhibitions at ASM including the award-winning Many Mexicos: Vistas de la Frontera.

Michael’s research has garnered international and national recognition over the years, including, for example, a Fulbright, a visiting professorship in Mexico, and visiting research fellowships in Australia and California. And just last year, Michael received the Dan Shilling Humanities Public Scholar Award from Arizona Humanities for his scholarly efforts to make history and culture more accessible to the general public.

For more information contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201

Illustration credits


Page 1, lower: 1869 José Pedro Martínez painting from Guerra de Castas Chiapaneca (Chiapas Caste War) series, depicting the Tzotzil rebellion of 1869 (Photo by Mario Nandayapa, copied from “La Ficción y Sus Límites. Dos Textos Dramáticos sobre la Rebelión Tzeltal de 1712” [Fiction and Its Limits. Two Dramatic Texts on the Tzeltal Rebellion of 1712] by Vladimir González Roblero (2020, Estudios Artísticos, Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Colombia).


This page, lower: Photo courtesy of Dr. Brescia.