**HILA 255 Early Latin America**

***La Otra Conquista* -- Historical Review Essay**

For your second major grade this semester, each of you must write a critical, historical review of Salvador Carrasco’s film, *La Otra Conquista* (1998).  The piece, which stars Damián Delgado as Topiltzin/Tomás, tells the story of an Aztec scribe turned religious novice by the conquest of Mexico. Opening in May 1520, it follows Topiltzin’s journey from devotee of the Mother Goddess to burgeoning monk in the service of the Virgin Mary, and his subsequent crisis of faith. The story operates as a metaphor for the complexities of the conquest, and even more so for its aftermath.

Your assignment is to write a critical review of *La Otra Conquista* that evaluates the historical merits of the film. In order to do this, you will need to draw on the assigned readings from class. You must use two primary sources from the course readings in your evaluation of the film.  Thus, each paper should include a short overview of the plot, the important characters, and a discussion of the historical themes that they embody. Then, with reference to the readings, evaluate the historic merits of the film. Analyze the readings in the context of the film, and the film in the context of the readings.

It is up to you which historical themes you decide to emphasize from the theme, but you must be able to connect them to specifics in either the primary or secondary readings at your disposal.

**Please note** that this paper is to be entirely your own work. You may not use internet resources or other outside readings. Stick to the readings that have been assigned in class. Whenever you use ideas from those readings, whether explicitly or not, you must cite them in footnotes. Citations should conform to Turabian style.  A guide to Turabian style citations is available at https://libguides.utk.edu/c.php?g=188584&p=3122379#s-lg-box-9616961.  We will be keeping up with reviews of the film available online. The one exception to outside-class resources available for writing this paper is the film’s page on the Internet Movie Database, which you may only use to keep track of and correctly spell the names of the characters.

3-5 pages

12 pt. font

1 in. margins

**DUE: OCTOBER 30**