

Life in Mexico during the Nineteenth Century.

An overview through the chronicle

The Mexico City, “a city which is a country”, according to V. Quirarte’s words, is the geographic and symbolic center of this nation. During the XIX century, the capital was the stage of several politic, social and cultural events that shaped this newborn republic.

In this process, the press had a very important role, because it became the principal cultural space. Throughout the pages of newspapers and magazines, we can find the daily life in the city and the problems of its population. Likewise, in this pages, we can see the coexistence of various jorunalistic and literary genres, such as short stories, poems, novels, news and chronicles.

The chronicle is a genre among History, journalism and literatura that allows us to read and explore the city in a fast and enjoyable way. The writer-journalists of this century adopted the mission of describing and interpreting the city through their chronicles, thus becoming observers, urban explorers, sentimental cartographers or true *flâneurs*.

The objective of this course is to offer an overview of daily events in the capital of Mexico through the nineteenth-century chronicle and introduce to the reading and commentary of the production of some relevant authors, such as José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi, Francisco Zarco, Ignacio Manuel Altamirano,

Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, Ángel de Campo and José Juan Tablada, as well as the main themes and topics developed in their texts. If the conditions permit, the course will include a guided visit to the National Newspaper Library of Mexico, as well as the Zócalo of the city. In other words, this course is a literary trip to the center of the country, another way to learn about the process of building the mexican nation.