I. Who Were the Aztecs?
Who Were the Aztecs?
A. Clearing up some misconceptions.
B. Aztecs were sophisticated and had a cultural continuity with the Mesoamerican past.

II. Why is Aztec Philosophy Important?
Topics of genuine philosophical interest:
Metaphysics: the study of the nature, constitution, and structure of reality.
   A. Ontology: the study of being; the study of what there is.
   B. Cosmology: the study of the origin and nature of the universe.

Remedy for the historic under-representation of Hispanics in academic philosophy:
Hispanics (a term that will be used interchangeably with “Latino” are a large and growing demographic yet they have been historically underrepresented in philosophy.
   B. 7% of graduates majoring in philosophy (2009), up from around 4.5% in 1995. (http://www.humanitiesindicators.org/content/indicatordoc.aspx?i=266).
Hispanics are the largest minority group in the US, and among the fastest growing.
A. 17% of US population, 3/4 of which are either US-born or naturalized (http://www.pewhispanic.org).
B. Hispanics of Mexican origin accounts for the majority of Hispanics in the US (64%) (http://www.pewhispanic.org).
If we want philosophy to be a more inclusive discipline, it would be good to reach out to this community in a way that speaks its cultural heritage.

III. Suggestions for Further Reading


Sahagun, Bernardino de. 1957. *Florentine Codex: General History of the Things of New Spain*. Santa Fe: School of American Research; Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah.