

HISTORY 4396 Sec. 13927
The Politics, Culture, and History of Modern México
FALL 2006

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Description: This class covers the history of Mexico from Independence to the present. Contemporary Mexico emerges out of the legacy of the rise and fall of great Ancient American Civilizations, the European conquest of the New World, and the creation of a multiethnic society forged from the deep roots of its indigenous past and the violence of the Spanish conquest. Upon gaining Independence in 1821, Mexico inherited a colonial past of ethnic and economic inequality and a pattern of economic growth that had never been designed to benefit the average Mexican. Mexico was attacked by foreign powers either attempting to re-colonize or to dismember the country, and at the same time Mexico was torn apart by internal civil war and popular upheaval from below. Yet Mexico managed to survive, and out of its struggles has produced some of the great artists, writers and popular leaders of the twentieth century. The major themes and events we will cover in this class begin with the turbulent nineteenth century and include the U.S.-Mexican War, the French invasion of Mexico, the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, and the rising political and national consciousness of the Mexican people. We will devote considerable time to understanding the causes, process and results of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1919. Then we will turn our attention to Mexico's struggle to modernize and develop in the twentieth century. We will examine Mexico's relationship with the United States, including issues of immigration, and economic and political change. Throughout the course we will attempt to understand Mexican history in relation to larger global forces that affect all nations.

The **Learning Outcomes** of this course are to:

1. Develop an understanding of the major themes, events, and figures in Mexican history from Independence to the present.
2. Explore interpretations of the past in order to develop critical thinking that can be applied in the present.
3. Develop a greater understanding of the role of interpretation in how history is created and used.

Requirements:

Tests: There are two midterms and a final. Each midterm counts for 20% of the grade and the final counts for 20%. The final is not cumulative, it covers the material treated since the previous exam only. The final exam will be given on the last day of class. The exams will consist of two essay questions, one drawn primarily from the lectures and the text, and one from the assigned readings. **Midterm 1:** Hart *Revolutionary México*, (Part I). **Midterm 2:** *Revolutionary México* (Part II). **Final:** Rubenstein *Bad Language* (All).

* **There will be no make-up exams without a written medical excuse. In that case the make-up will be given at the end of the semester at a time chosen by the instructor.**

In class assignments: There will be occasional work done in class covering the text and the readings. Most will be announced in advance, but there may be days when the assignments are not announced before hand. There are no make-ups for missed assignments, but you can drop one of these in-class grades. All in-class work combined with class participation will count for 20% of the final grade. Attendance is necessary to do well in this course.

Writing assignments:

All writing assignments will be in-class endeavors or small take home assignments as assigned in class (they will count towards the "in class assignment" component of your grade).

CT website: Link to be announced.

Books:

Text: *The Course of Mexican History*, by Sherman and Meyer

Supplementary Readings: *Revolutionary México* John Hart; *Bad Language, Naked Ladies and Other Threats to the Nation*, Anne Rubenstein

Additional readings about particular themes may be distributed during the semester, particularly for the last portion of the course. Take an active role in your own education. Do the assigned reading before coming to class so you can participate in discussions.

General Policies:

If you need any particular accommodations for note or test taking please let me know as soon as possible and we will make the necessary arrangements. If you have a question at any time just ask. If you do not wish to ask during class, ask after class or come to office hours. If you cannot come at the arranged office hours let me know and we will work around our schedules so we can meet.

Topics and Readings:

Week 1: 8/21	Introduction to the course/the Colonial Heritage Text Chaps 9-13
Week 2: 8/28	The Colonial Heritage (Cont.) & Independence Text Chaps 16-17 / Hart Ch. 1.
Week 3: 9/4	Happy Labor Day! NO CLASS , but please read on The Early Republic, Text Chaps 18-19/Hart Ch. 2
Week 4: 9/11	Continue the Early Republic to the U.S.-Mexican War, Text Chap 20./ Hart Ch. 3.
Week 5: 9/18	The French Intervention and the Restored Republic, Text Chaps 22, 23, 24/Hart Ch. 4.
Week 6: 9/25	The Porfiriato- México as a model, Text Chaps 26-29. Hart/Chaps 5-6. Brief Review for Midterm 1.
Week 7: 10/2	Midterm 1. Begin The Mexican Revolution, Chaps 30, 31, / Hart Ch. 7.
Week 8: 10/9	The Mexican Revolution, Text Chaps 32, 33 / Hart Ch 8.
Week 9: 10/16	The Mexican Revolution, Text Chaps 34, 35 / Hart Ch. 9
Week 10: 10/23	Post-Revolution reconstruction and dissent, Text Chaps 36, 37./ Hart Conclusion and Epilogue.
Week 11: 10/30	Reviving the Revolution: Lazaro Cardenas, Text Chaps 38, 39. Brief Review for Midterm 2.
Week 12: 11/6	Midterm 2. Begin the Institutionalized Revolution, Text Chaps 40, 41/ Rubenstein: Intro and Ch. 1.
Week 13: 11/13	The Mexican Miracle, Text Chap 42 / Rubenstein, Chaps 2-3
Week 14: 11/20	From Miracle to Breakdown: Tlatelolco, Text Chap 43 / Rubenstein, Chaps 4, 5, and Conclusion.
Week 15: 11/27	NAFTA and Chiapas, Text Chap 44.
Week 16: 12/4	(Make-up class due to Labor Day Holiday) Political Reform, Social Crisis, Text Chap 45, Conclusion and Review for Final
Week 17: 12/11	Final Exam 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Happy Holidays!!!