

HISTORY 4396 Sec. 13920
Politics and Culture: A History of Modern México
Spring 2007

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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 the larger global forces that affect all nations.

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

- . 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 three exams. Each exam counts for 30% of the grade. The final is not cumulative, it covers the material treated since the previous exam only. * **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 10% of the final grade. Attendance is necessary to do well in this course.

Writing assignments:

There are 3 formal but short take-home writing assignments which are counted as part of your test grade based on the assigned reading for that part of the class. The assignment will be a 3-5 critical review of the assigned book for that section, due on the exam date. Further details will be discussed in class.

Books:

Empire and Revolution: The Americans in Mexico since the Civil War, by John Mason Hart

Peasants, Politics and the Formation of Mexico's National State by Peter Guardino

Bitter Harvest: The Social Transformation of Morelos, Mexico and the Origins of the Zapatista Revolution, 1840-1910. by Paul Hart

Bad Language, Naked Ladies and Other Threats to the Nation, by 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. Finally, do your own work: its easy to cut and paste review articles, and even easier to detect them. Its easiest however to read the assignments and articulate your evaluations of them. **UH policies on academic honesty are found at: www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk or pp 9-14 of the UH Student Handbook 2006-7.**

Topics and Readings.

Week 1: 1/16 1/18	Introduction to the course/the Colonial Heritage : Guardino Intro, Ch1.
Week 2: 1/23 1/25	The Colonial Heritage (Cont.) & Independence : Guardino Ch 2, Paul Hart Ch 1
Week 3: 1/30 2/01	Failed Empire and The Early Republic: Guardino Ch. 3, 4, Paul Hart Ch 2
Week 4: 2/06 2/08	Continue the Early Republic to the U.S.-Mexican War, Guardino Ch. 5, Paul Hart Ch 3, John Hart Introduction
Week 5: 2/13 2/15	The French Intervention and the Restored Republic Guardino Ch 6 and conclusion, Paul Hart Ch 4-5 and J. Hart Ch 1-2.
Week 6: <u>2/20</u> 2/22	<u>2/20 EXAM 1, Review of Peter Guardino due with exam.</u> 2/22 The Porfiriato- México as a model: Paul Hart Ch 6, J Hart Ch 3-5,.
Week 7: 2/27 3/01	Crisis and the causes of the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Paul Hart Ch 7 J Hart Ch 6-8
Week 8: 3/06 3/08	The Mexican Revolution cont. J Hart Ch 9, Paul Hart Ch 8-9.
Week 9: 3/12-3/17	SPRING BREAK
Week 10: 3/20 3/22	Post-Revolution reconstruction and dissent, J Hart Ch 10; Paul Hart, Conclusion.
Week 11: <u>3/27 3/29</u>	3/27 Cristeros and Capitalists J. Hart Ch 11. FINISH PAUL HART. <u>3/29 EXAM 2 Review of Paul Hart due with exam</u>
Week 12: 4/3 4/5	Reviving the Revolution: Lazaro Cardenas. J Hart Ch, 12 Rubenstein: Intro and Ch. 1.
Week 13: 4/10 4/12	Begin the Institutionalized Revolution and The Mexican Miracle, Rubenstein, Ch 2-3, J Hart Ch 13
Week 14: 4/17 4/19	From Miracle to Breakdown: Tlatelolco, 1968 to 1988 Rubenstein, Chaps 4, 5, and Conclusion, J Hart Ch 14.
Week 15: 4/24 <u>4/26:</u>	4/24 Political Reform, Social Crisis: NAFTA and Chiapas, the PRI, PAN and PRD. 4/26 (<u>LAST CLASS DAY</u>) 2010? Finish Rubenstein, J Hart Ch 15, Conclusion.
Week 16: 4/27-5/09	Semester ends Monday 4/30: office hours will be held during steady period and/or by appt.
Week 17: 05/10	<u>Final Exam 5:00-7:30 pm May 10. 201 AH Review of Rubenstein due with exam.</u>