

Mexican History (HIST 328.05)

Fall 1999, Truman State University
VH1332, TR 4:30-5:50
Office: KB 225A
<http://cinfo.truman.edu/courses/9962817/>

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Description

This course surveys the history of Mexico from the earliest human inhabitation to the present. It will present different interpretations of the major themes and developments in Mexican history. A goal is to understand Mexico from the perspective of the Mexicans rather than from the point of view of the United States. It is important to understand, however, that Mexico is not a singular homogenous entity; there are “many Mexicos.” In particular, this course will emphasize the creation of Mexican identities, the role which Indigenous peoples and women have played in that creation, and how that role has changed over time.

Requirements

You are expected and required to attend every class session, and you are responsible for the material covered in the lectures, readings and films, and for any announcements made in class. Unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade. If you have suggestions for improving the class, please bring these to my attention. I will post class schedule updates to the class on the web site. If you have a disability or any conflicts which may affect your class performance, please bring this to my attention immediately so that we can make arrangements for this to be a positive learning experience for you.

Readings

The following are the required books for this class. Read the assignments before class so that you are prepared to carry on an intelligent discussion of the material in class. Lectures will complement the readings and assume the base level of knowledge which they present, so it is critically important that you keep up with the readings.

Meyer, Michael C., William L. Sherman, and Susan M. Deeds. *The Course of Mexican History*. 6th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Reed, Nelson. *The Caste War of Yucatan*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 1964.

Salas, Elizabeth. *Soldaderas in the Mexican Military: Myth and History*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.

Womack, John, Jr. *Rebellion in Chiapas : an Historical Reader*. New York: New Press, 1999.

Internet

This course makes use of Blackboard's CourseInfo (<http://cinfo.truman.edu/courses/9962817/>). To logon, enter your email id as the user name, and your social security number as your password. Once you are logged on, click on “student tools” and then “change your information” to change your password. I will post class schedule updates, weekly quizzes, additional information on assignments, study guides, and other resources and information related to the class on this web site. CourseInfo also includes a discussion board,

chat room, and email tools which I encourage you to use to ask questions, continue class discussions, and as a resource to help with assignments and exams. Please let me know if you need assistance in using these resources.

Assignments and grades

Course grades will be based on the following assignments. Study guides for the exams and more detailed information on the written assignments will be posted to the web page. Grades on late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day that they are late.

Midterm exam (Sept 30)	20%
Essay (Nov 9)	10
Research paper (Dec 7)	20
Library exercise (Sept 16)	5
Internet exercise (Sept 21)	5
Project proposal (Oct 7)	5
Class presentation (Nov 30 & Dec 2)	5
Final exam (Dec 9)	20
Discussion board postings	<u>10</u>
	100%

Essay: Compare the views of the authors of the readings we have completed so far in this class of marginalized peoples in Mexico. The essay is due on November 9 and is to be five-pages long, typed, double spaced, include citations and a bibliography, and follow good essay form. The format should follow either the MLA or Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. In addition, follow the guidelines in "The Writing of a Historical Essay or Research Paper" which is on the class web page.

Discussion board postings: I will post a discussion question for each week's reading to the discussion board on Blackboard's CourseInfo. Respond to this question before class on Thursday. I will grade your posting based on its level of analytical thought, and the extent to which you engage other students in a virtual discussion.

Research paper: Each student is required to write a research paper on a topic related to Mexican history. The paper must be 10 to 15 pages long, use a minimum of six scholarly sources (books and journal articles), be typed, double spaced, and include citations and a bibliography. You must read and follow the style guidelines contained in the guide "The Writing of a Historical Essay or Research Paper" which is on the class web page. This project will be developed in a series of stages. You **MUST** meet every one of these deadlines. Failure to do so will result in no credit for the research paper.

Sept 16: Library exercise due.

Sept 21: Locate and annotate three Internet sites related to the topic of your final project. Post this annotated list of sites in CourseInfo (click on "student tools" and then "edit your home page).

Oct 7: Research paper proposal, including a paragraph describing your project, the questions you seek to address with the project, a hypothesis of what you expect to find (the thesis statement of your research paper), and a preliminary bibliography of sources that you plan to use.

Oct 28: First (rough) draft of the project, which must include citations and bibliography. I expect this draft to have the form and elements of a formal research paper. The more complete your draft is, the better feedback I can give you and the more likely it will be that you will receive a good grade on the final draft.

Nov 30 & Dec 2: Oral presentations in class of research project. In your presentation, tell us what questions you addressed in your research project, what you expected to find (your thesis), a summary of your actual findings, and your conclusions. Please feel free to include visuals and other materials in your presentation.

Dec 7: Final projects due. When handing in your final draft, please include the copy of the first draft which I corrected. I will return all of this to you at the time of the final exam.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 24 & 26) Introduction & Geography

Week 2 (Aug 31 & Sept 2) Mayas & Aztecs
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part I (“Pre-Columbian Mexico”)

Week 3 (Sept 7 & 9) Cortés & Conquest
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part II (“The Spanish Conquerors”)
Womack, ch. 1 (“Las Casas”)

Week 4 (Sept 14 & 16) Colonial Period
Tues., Sept 14 **Library introduction** (meet in Rm. 104 of the library)
Thurs., Sept 16 **Library exercise due**
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part III (“The Colony of New Spain”)
Womack, ch. 2-3 (“Presumptuous...” and “Rebellion...”)

Week 5 (Sept 21 & 23) Independence
Tues., Sept 21 **Internet exercise due**
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part IV (“Reform and Reaction: The Move to Independence”) and Part V (“The Trails of Nationhood, 1824-55”)

Week 6 (Sept 28 & 30) Midterm
Tues., Sept 28 Midterm Review
Thurs., Sept 30 **Midterm Exam**

Week 7 (Oct 5 & 7) Liberals and Conservatives
Thurs., Oct 7 **Research paper proposals due**
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part VI (“Liberals and Conservatives Search for Something Better, 1855-76”)

- Week 8 (Oct 12 & 14) Caste War
Read: Reed, *Caste War of Yucatan*
Womack, ch. 4 (“Ladino Massacre”)
- Week 9 (Oct 19 & 21) Porfiriato
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part VII (“The Modernization of Mexico, 1876-1910”)
- Week 10 (Oct 26 & 28) Mexican Revolution
Thurs., Oct 28 **Research paper drafts due**
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part VIII (“The Revolution: The Military Phase, 1910-20”)
- Week 11 (Nov 2 & 4) Women and Indians
Read: Salas, *Soldaderas in the Mexican Military*
Womack, ch. 5 (“Mexican Revolution”)
- Week 12 (Nov 9 & 11) *Indigenismo & Cárdenas*
Tues., Nov 9 **Essay Due**
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part IX (“The Revolution: The Constructive Phase, 1920-40”)
Womack, ch. 6-7 (“Migrant Labor” and “Church’s New Mission”)
- Week 13 (Nov 16 & 18) Students & Women
Read: Meyer/Sherman/Deeds, Part X (“The Revolution Shifts Gears: Mexico Since 1940”)
- Week 14 (Nov 23) Zapatistas
Thurs., Nov 25 No Class (T-Day)
Read: finish Womack, *Rebellion in Chiapas*
- Week 15 (Nov 30 & Dec 2) **Class presentations**
- Tues., Dec 7 Final Review; **Research paper Due**
- Final Exam:** Thursday, December 9, 1:30-3:20 p.m.