



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

Summer Language and Culture Session Only

THE HISTORY OF MEXICO
Universidad Latina de América
Contact Hrs: 40
Language of Instruction: English

MORELIA, MEXICO

Course description

The course *Introduction to the History of Mexico* is designed to provide the students with a general view of the development of the Mexican history. We will begin with the conquest of Mexico. The impact of the encounter of two different world-views and the establishment of the Colonial rule will be studied. We will continue with a recount of the struggle for independence and the ups and downs that the emerging country faced during the Nineteenth Century. Special attention will be given to the Mexican Revolution. Political, social, and economic issues will be emphasized. Invasions, wars and factionalism during this period will be measured as causes of instability. Finally we will make a general view of the Contemporary Mexico from the times of the reconstruction of the nation to the arrival of Vicente Fox into the Presidency.

We will focus on the particularities and differences that make Mexico a multicultural nation, considered as the product of centuries of social struggles.

Evaluation

Exams count for 40% of your grade. I will give one mid-term that covers "The Conquest of Mexico" and "The Emergence of the Mexican Nation". The second exam will cover "Contemporary Mexico". Each is worth 20%

Throughout the semester I will require you to answer sets of discussion questions, do class presentations, and investigate historical figures. All this work combined will count for 40% of your final grade.

I will give a map quiz which counts for 10% of your final grade.

Finally, class participation is essential for the learning process, therefore, I will consider 10% of your final grade a reflection of your class participation.

Outline of the course

- I. Introduction to the course. Work guidelines.
- II. The Conquest of Mexico
 1. The conquerors.
 2. The military conquest.
 3. The spiritual conquest.
 4. The Colonial rule.
- III. The emergence of the Mexican nation
 1. The struggle for independence.

Discussion questions

- The foundation of the Mexican State.
- The War with the United States and the French Intervention
- Civil War: Liberals versus conservatives.
- The liberal reform.
- The “Porfiriato” and the influence of positivism.
- The Mexican revolution.

Discussion Questions

First Exam

- IV. Contemporary Mexico
 1. The reconstruction of the nation.
 2. The “Cristero” movement.
 3. Lázaro Cárdenas.
 4. Mexico 1968-1979.
 5. 1980’s: Neoliberal economics and policies.
 6. The arrival of the Pan into the Presidency.
 7. Conclusions.

Second Exam

Detailed Assignments

Week 1

Class expectations

Movie: Cabeza de Vaca

Read: • “The Origin of the Aztecs”

“The Meaning of Maize”

“Omens Foretelling the Conquest”

Homework: Rewrite History

Read: History of Mexico p 45-64 (Compact History of Mexico)

“Spaniards Entry”

“Cortez and Moctezuma”

“Battles of Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco”

Week 2

Read: “The Colonial Latifundio”

“The Spiritual Conquest”

“Revival, Restriction, and Crisis”

Class work: “On Men’s Hypocrisy”

Read: “Sentiments of the Nation”

“Independence From Spain”

Class work: Time line, Biography Presentations

Week 3

Read: History of Mexico 65-102

“War With the United States”

Class work: “Decimas Dedicated to Santa Anna’s Leg”

Read: “A Conservative Profession of Faith”

“Consideration Relating

Class work: Liberal Conservative Debate

Read: “Liberals and the Land”

“Standard Plots and Rural Resistance”

Class work: “Gift of the Skeletons”

Trivia Game

FIRST EXAM

Week 4

Read: History of Mexico pp 105-128

“Plan of Ayala”

“Pancho Villa”

Classwork: “La Punitiva”

Read “Lazaro Cardenas Redefines”

“Ode to Cuautemoc”

“Ballado of San Valentin”

“Mexico’s Crisis”

Classwork: The Constitution f 1917

Art Slide show

Week 5

Read: “Political Stability and Industrialization 1940-1970”

Classwork: Tour!

Read: “Social Change and Migration 1940-1970”

Read: “A Crisis Emerges 1970-1982”

Week 6

Read: “Dismay and Drift 1982-2000”

“The CODEI of Juchitan”

“The Long Journey From Hope to Despair”

“The Mexican Connection”

“Maquiladoras”

Class work: “Two Songs”

FINAL EXAM

Bibliography:

Cosío Villegas, Daniel, et al. *A Compact History of Mexico*. Trans. Marjory Mattingly Urquidí. El Colegio de México, 2000.

Joseph, Gilbert M., et al. *The México Reader: History Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press: Durham and London, 2002.

Meyer, Michael C., et al. *The Course of Mexican History*. Seventh Edition. Oxford University Press: New York, 2003.