

**History of Mexico
HIST 3660**

Fall term 2008

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

046 Eccles Science Learning Center

Dr. James Sanders

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Images of Mexico abound in the United States—immigrants crossing the Rio Grande, beaches in Cancún, new factories along the border—but Mexico has a much longer, richer, and more complicated history than U.S. conceptions suggest. To understand contemporary Mexico, we must understand its past—beginning with Mexico’s indigenous cultures, we will explore the Spanish conquest, the colonial era, the Independence movements, conflicts over the creation of a new nation, war with the United States, the all-important Revolution, post-revolutionary society, and the current economic and social situation. While we will study the problems and preoccupations of the powerful in Mexican society, much of the course will focus on how everyday people struggled to make their own lives throughout the course of Mexican history.

REQUIRED READING

There are four books, electronic reserve readings, and internet readings. The electronic reserve readings are quite lengthy – be prepared! The books are available at the campus bookstore. The electronic reserves you can access from the USU library home page (library.usu.edu) and clicking the “Course Reserves” link under the “Find Resources” pull-down menu. The password is san3660. Internet readings can be accessed via the URL given below from any web browser.

Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2006.

Clendinnen, Inga. *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Hellman, Judith Adler. *Mexican Lives*. New York: The New Press, 1994.

Joseph, Gilbert M. and Timothy J. Henderson, eds. *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002.

EVALUATION

Class participation - 20%

Pop quizzes and map test - 10%

4 essays interpreting historical or scholarly documents - 25%

Historiography essay – 10%

Midterm - 15%

Final Exam - 20%

The essays will be 2-3 page responses to the assigned readings. Students will read critically and analyze a problem in either a secondary or primary text and make an argument to support their position. A specific assignment will be given out for each essay at least a week before the assignment is due. You must attend class regularly or you will miss the assignments. Papers must be given to the instructor directly.

Papers one, three, and four will be graded by the instructor. Paper two will be reviewed by the class as a whole, to allow students to better understand which types of arguments and styles make an excellent paper. This paper will be graded pass/fail – a fail grade will count towards your final paper grade.

The historiography assignment will help you develop your research skills. Students will pick a debate in Mexican history, locate two scholarly articles about this debate, and write a short paper (2-3 pages, double spaced) detailing how each scholar approached the debate and the similarities and differences in their arguments.

Quizzes are based on the assigned readings for each class period. I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Missed quizzes cannot be taken later.

The tests will be essay and short answer format.

As noted earlier, student participation is central to the success of the goals of this course. Without participation you rob your classmates of the opportunity to benefit from your ideas and you yourself do not polish your skills in analyzing information and relating your conclusions in a comprehensible form to others. Missed classes will affect your participation grade. Simply attending class without participating will only earn you a D- participation grade.

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking another person's ideas and claiming them as your own. This includes both copying directly from another work or taking the idea from that work without giving the author recognition with a citation. Paraphrasing without a citation is still plagiarism. Similarly, citing a work, and then copying directly without quotation marks or even almost directly (paraphrasing too closely), is plagiarism. Plagiarists will receive an F and be reported to the Dean.

Disability Resource Center

If accommodations for the course are needed, students should contact the Disability Resource Center, located in the University Inn, Room 101: (435)797-2444 and (435)797-0740, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

USU electronic reserve readings are marked with an @. Internet readings are marked with a *.

August 25 – Introduction: The Course of Mexican History

No readings

August 27 – Pre-Columbian Mexican Cultures

No readings

August 29 – The Maya

Readings: Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, 130-160.

September 1 – **NO CLASS!**

September 3 – The Aztec I

Readings: @ Jacques Soustelle, "Daily Life of the Aztecs on the Eve of the Spanish Conquest," in Gilbert M. Joseph and Mark D. Szuchman, eds, *I Saw a City Invincible: Urban Portraits of Latin America* (Wilmington: SR Books, 1996), pp. 35-47.

September 5 – The Aztec II
MAP TEST!

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 61-78.

@2) “Durán on Aztec Sacrifices” (2:5), in John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith, eds., *New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century. Volume 1* (New York: Times Books and Hector & Rose, 1984), pp. 110 - 113.

September 8 – The Conquest

Readings: Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, 1-19.

September 10 - Cortés and Montezuma

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 97-113.

September 12 – Conquests on the Periphery

Readings: Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, 20-71.

September 15 - Indians and Spaniards in the Yucatán – **PAPER ONE DUE!**

Readings: Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, 72-128.

September 17 – The Church in the Conquest

Readings: 1) Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, 161-189.

2) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 114-121.

September 19 – Colonial Society: The Hacienda

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 122-140.

2) @“1522. Testimony on the Administration of the *Encomiendas* of Gaspar de Espinosa,” (34:2), in John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith, eds., *New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century. Volume 3* (New York: Times Books and Hector & Rose, 1984), pp. 112-113.

3) @“1552. Complaint of the Indians of Tecama Against Their *encomendero*, Juan Ponce de León,” (42:5), in John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith, eds., *New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century. Volume 3* (New York: Times Books and Hector & Rose, 1983), pp. 442 - 443.

September 22 – Colonial Society: Labor and Mines

Readings: @“1599. Gómez de Cervantes on the Labor *Repartimiento*,” (42:6), in John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith, eds., *New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century. Volume 3* (New York: Times Books and Hector & Rose, 1984), pp. 443-446.

September 24 – Indigenous Reaction – **PAPER TWO DUE!**

Readings: @David Weber, Henry Warner Bowden, and Andrew L. Knaut, *What Caused the Pueblo Revolt of 1680?* (Boston: Bedford, 1999), 3-7, 21-37, 115-127.

September 26 – Colonial Society: Women and Everyday Life

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 156-159.

@2) “The Tenth Muse,” in Benjamin Keen, ed., *Latin American Civilization: History and Society, 1492 to the Present. Fourth Edition* (Westview Press: Boulder and London, 1986), pp.148-152.

@3) “Chapter 17: Scandal at the Church,” in Richard Boyer and Geoffrey Spurling, eds., *Colonial Lives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 216-223.

@4) “Chapter 12: Catarina María Complains,” in Richard Boyer and Geoffrey Spurling, eds., *Colonial Lives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 155-165.

September 29 – Independence: Hidalgo’s Bell

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 171-191.

October 1 – Independence: The Revolution from Above

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 192-195.

October 3 – Post-Colonial Dilemmas

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 196-212, 217-219.

October 6 – The War with the North

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 220-238.

*2) “The War with Mexico,” in *The American Whig Review* 3 (June 1846), 571-580. At Cornell University Library, *The Making of America*: <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/moa/moa-cgi?notisid=ABL5306-0003-106>

@3) Paul Foss, *A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 113-127.

October 8 – La Reforma

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 239-262.

October 10 – MID-TERM

No readings

October 13 – The French Intervention and Popular Liberalism

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 263-272.

October 15 – The Porfiriato

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 273-291.

@2) John Kenneth Turner, “The Díaz System,” in Hanke and Rausch, *People and Issues in Latin American History*, 177-184.

October 17 – Fall Break. No Class!**October 20 - The Coming of the Mexican Revolution**

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 333-338.

@2) Anita Brenner, *The Wind that Swept Mexico* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971), 7-29.

October 22 – Zapata and Villa

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 339-343, 351-356, 364-371.

@2) "Plan of San Luis Potosí"

@3) Anita Brenner, *The Wind that Swept Mexico* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971), 29-36.

@4) John Womack, Jr., *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution* (New York, Vintage, 1968), 3-9.

October 24 – The Revolution from Above

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 357-363, 375-386, 398-402.

@2) Anita Brenner, *The Wind that Swept Mexico* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971), 37-53.

3) Azuela, *The Underdogs*, 1-38.

October 27 – Aftermath of the Revolution

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 387-397.

@2) Anita Brenner, *The Wind that Swept Mexico* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971), 53-61.

3) Azuela, *The Underdogs*, 39-75.

October 29 – Interpreting the Mexican Revolution – PAPER THREE DUE!

Readings: Azuela, *The Underdogs*, 76-151.

October 31 – Institutionalization and the Cristeros

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 411-417, 421-425.

November 3 - Cardenismo

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 439-460.

November 5 – Mexico under the PRI

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 428-438, 465-481.

November 7 – Popular Challenges

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 555-569.

2) Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, 185-209.

November 10 – The Neo-Liberal Order

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 512-519, 536-544.

2) Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, 1-14.

November 12 – Daily Life in Mexico I

Readings: Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, 15-42, 63-86.

November 14 – Daily Life in Mexico II – **PAPER FOUR DUE!**

Readings: Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, 87-112, 127-151.

November 17 – The Zapatista Challenge

Readings: Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 638-669.

November 19 – The Neo-Liberal Triumph

Readings: 1) Joseph and Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader*, 698-716.

@2) Sam Dillon, "Profits Raise Pressure on Border Factories," *The New York Times*, 15 February 2001.

November 21 – Life on the Border - FILM: *Maquilápolis*, dir. Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre

No readings

November 24 – Life on the Border – FILM: *Maquilápolis*, dir. Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre

No readings

November 26 and 28 – **NO CLASSES!****December 1** – The Border: A Line in the Sand

Readings: 1) Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, 152-184.

December 3 – Mexicanos in El Norte - Work and Politics

Readings: @1) Lisa Jones, "El Nuevo West," in *The West in the History of the Nation, V.2*, eds. W. Deverell and Ann F. Hyde (Boston: St. Martin's, 2000), 285-290.

@2) Anthony DePalma, "'A Tyrannical Situation.' Farmers Caught in Conflict Over Illegal Migrant Workers," *The New York Times*, 3 October 2000.

@3) Katherin Boo, "The Churn: Creative Destruction in a Border Town" *The New Yorker* (29 March 2004), 62-73.

December 5 - Conclusion and Review – **HISTORIOGRAPHY PAPER DUE!**

No readings

December 8 (Monday) - FINAL EXAM - 11:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.