History 573: Readings in Mexican History

Instructor: Michael Perri  
Texas A&M University-Texarkana  
3 SCH  
Phone: 223-3194  
E-mail: mperri@tamut.edu  
Office: UC227

Course description: Through selected readings, this course studies the social, economic and political history of Mexico. Special emphasis will be given to the era of conquest.

Required Text:

Recommended Texts:

Student Learner Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to
- historically analyze primary text and secondary works
- orally present to a class the historical context and main points of two primary texts and two secondary works
- discussion various issues and readings in Mexican history
- write a research essay
- Write summary-reflective essays on selected readings in Mexican history

Course Requirements and Means of Evaluation:
- **Grades:** 399 points; 90–100% = A, 80–89% = B, 70–79% = C, 60–69% = D, 59% or less = F  
In accordance with departmental policy, grades will not be posted nor reported over the telephone or e-mail.
  - 1 Minor Research Essay: 200 points
  - 2 Oral Presentations: 40 points (20 points each)
  - 3 Summary-Reflective Essays: 120 points (40 points each)
  - **Discussion Points:** 39 points (3 points each). A possible 3 bonus points may be added to each of the 13 class sessions that involve discussion of course readings. This could equal 39 points. These points are relatively easy to earn. **To receive the points, students must attend the entire class session and actively participate in discussion of the assigned readings.** Students forfeit the possible discussion points for each class session they miss or cannot fully attend. Active participation may include enlightening the class of your own analysis of the week’s readings, asking questions about the readings, or responding to another student’s question, presentation, statement or analysis.
• **Oral Presentations**: Each student will be assigned five readings during the first class session to present in the class session in which the readings are assigned. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes in length and should summarize and highlight the main points of the reading. Please do not use PowerPoint. The instructor hopes the presentations will remind the class of the reading’s contents and initiate class discussion. Students must also submit a typed outline of the presentation and a short list of discussion questions about the reading. Please avoid missing a presentation. Make-up presentations tend to throw the course off schedule. In most cases, the instructor will not allow for make-up presentations. If a future reading is still available to present, the instructor might assign the student that reading. The decision is the instructor’s to make, and the instructor will base the decision on the progress of the course and not on an individual’s particular situation. Keep the presentation date and your schedule in mind when choosing a presentation and planning your semester.

**Research Essay**: Students must write a research essay of roughly eight to twelve pages in length. A research essay must comprise research, but unlike a regular research paper, students may base much of their research on secondary sources. However, students should find an original argument or angle on their chosen topic. The instructor expects students to synthesize their research materials and analyze their topic. Paper that simply compile of others’ work will receive a low grade. By October 7, students must have a research topic and three sources approved by the instructor. The essay is due by December 5 (three days after the last class session) and students are required to submit the essay via turnitin.com.

**Turnitin.com**: For students to enroll in this class, they will need both the course’s enrollment password and the unique class ID generated. These items are listed below.

- Class ID: 4198155
- Enrollment password: hist573

• **Summary-reflective Essays**: Students are required to submit 3 summary-reflective essays. There are 13 weeks in which students can submit summary-reflective essays, but students are expected to complete the reading for each week. The essay should summarize the week’s reading concisely, and then reflect on the material’s historical significance. The instructor reads the essays to determine if the student has adequately read and comprehended the material assigned for the week. The instructor will deduct points for poorly written essays. The essays should not exceed three pages of double-spaced text. One strategy for summarizing the week’s various documents is to link them all to a common theme. However, only one document is assigned for some weeks, and in other weeks the documents may be too diverse to be linked by a common theme.

**Academic Integrity**: Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the University Catalog. Students can avoid plagiarism by citing their sources properly. If there is any uncertainty in how to document a source, the student should reference Watkins and Dillingham's *Practical English Handbook*, or a variety of reference websites addressing how to cite sources. Some helpful websites are as follows:

http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite7.html
http://www.mrs.umn.edu/library/citing.php
http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/guides/chicagogd.html
http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/works_cited.htm
Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy: To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html) or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email (Registrar@tamut.edu), mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140).

Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar’s Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Tentative Class Schedule

August 26: Introduction.

September 2: Labor Day

September 9: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   1. Helen Nader, The Spain that Encountered Mexico
   2. Susan Schroeder, The Mexico that Spain Encountered

Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson, eds., The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics
   A. The Origins of the Aztecs, Anonymous (p. 57)
   B. Inga Clendinnen, The Cost of Courage in Aztec Society (p. 61)
   C. Popol Vuh, Anonymous (p. 79)
   D. J. Eric Thompson, The Meaning of Maize for the Maya (p. 86)
   E. Omens Foretelling the Conquest, Anonymous (p. 92)

September 16: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   3. Ross Hassig, The Collision of Two Worlds

Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson, eds., The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics
   A. Bernal Díaz del Castillo and Hernán Cortés, The Spaniards’ Entry into Tenochtitlá (p. 97)
   B. J.H. Elliott, Cortés and Montezuma (p. 105)
   C. The Battles of Tenochtitlá and Tlatelolco, Anonymous (p. 109)
   D. Fray Jerónimo de Mendieta, The Spiritual Conquest, (pp. 114-121)
September 23: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   4. Mark A. Burkhoder, An Empire Beyond Compare
   5. Linda A. Curcio-Nagy, Faith and Morals in Colonial Mexico

   A. Fray Jerónimo de Mendieta, The Spiritual Conquest (pp. 114-121)
   B. Irving Leonard, A Baroque Archbishop-Viceroy (pp. 141-155)

September 30: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   6. Robert Patch, Indian Resistance to Colonialism
   7. Elinor G.K. Melville, Disease, Ecology, and the Environment

   A. Enrique Florescano, The Colonial Latifunio (pp. 131-140)
   B. Alonso de Zorita, Why the Indians Are Dying, pp. 122-121

October 7: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   8. Asunción Lavrin, Women in Colonial Mexico

   Sor Juana, On Men’s Hypocrisy, pp. 156-159.

October 14: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   9. Virginia Guedea, The Old Colonialism Ends, the New Colonialism Begins
   10. Christon I. Archer, Fashioning a New Nation

   A. Lucas Alamán, The Siege of Guanajuato, pp. 171-188
   B. José María Morelos, Sentiments of the Nation, pp. 189-191
   C. Agustín de Iturbide, Plan of Iguala, pp. 192-195

October 21: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
   11. Josefina Zoraida Vázquez, War and Peace with the United States

   A. Juan Bautista Morales, War and Finance, Mexican Style, pp. 217-219
   B. Editors of El Tiempo, A Conservative Profession of Faith, pp. 220-225
   C. Mariano Otero, Considerations Relating to the Political and Social Situation, pp. 226-238

October 28: Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, The Oxford History of Mexico
13. Robert M. Buffington and William E. French, *The Culture of Modernity*

B. Traven, *Scenes from a Lumber Camp*, pp. 279-284

**November 4:** Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, *The Oxford History of Mexico*

A. Emiliano Zapata and Others, *Plan of Ayala*, pp. 339-343
D. The Constitution of 1917: Articles 27 and 123, pp. 398-402

**November 11:** Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, *The Oxford History of Mexico*
15. Thomas Benjamin, *Rebuilding the Nation*

A. Salvador Lemus Fernández, *The Convention in Zacapu*
B. Fernando Benítez, *The Agrarian Reform in La Laguna*

**November 18:** Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, *The Oxford History of Mexico*
16. Friedrich E. Schuler, *Mexico and the Outside World*

A. Josephus Daniels, *The Oil Expropriation*
B. Arturo Anguiano, *Cárdenas and the Masses*

**November 25:** Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, *The Oxford History of Mexico*
17. Helen Delpar, *Mexican Culture, 1920-45*

A. Joel Poinsett, *The Mexican Character*, pp. 11-14
C. Octavio Paz, *The Sons of La Malinche*, pp. 20-27

**December 2:** Michael C. Meyer and William H. Beezley, *The Oxford History of Mexico*
19. Roderic Ai Camp, *The Time of the Technocrats and Deconstruction of the Revolution*

Effective with the Fall 2013 semester, the administrative drop policy as it relates to non-developmental courses will be discontinued. **Students who no longer wish to attend their course(s) will be required to submit the necessary paperwork to the Registrar’s Office in order to be officially dropped/withdrawn from their course(s).** Those students who do not follow the correct drop/withdraw procedure will remain registered in their course(s) and receive the grade issued by the instructor. Students may find the drop/withdraw form on the “Dropping/Withdraw a Class” page of the Registrar website.

The policy for development courses will remain the same. Any student who is registered in a developmental course and fails to attend may be administratively dropped/withdrawn from all courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Drop without a grade</th>
<th>Last day drop/withdraw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Term (16 week)</td>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 11</td>
<td>Monday, Nov. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st 7 week</td>
<td>Friday, Aug. 30</td>
<td>Friday, Oct. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd 7 week</td>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>