

**History of Mexico**  
**HIST 351/551 • Fall 2015**  
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 1:50 pm, 224 CCC**

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejhsinghani	Office Hours:	M 6:30-7:30 p.m., Tu 2:30-4:30
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**Course Description**

This upper-level seminar course explores Mexican political, economic, social, and cultural history from pre-Conquest times to the present. No previous training in Latin American history is required.

We begin with the stories of the inhabitants of central and southern Mexico – including the Olmec, Maya, and Nahua – before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors. We next tackle Spanish contact with, and conquest of, indigenous peoples and the native environment; the establishment of the colony of New Spain and development of new economic, political, and religious structures; the introduction of African slavery; and the growth of a colonial society that relied on class, racial, and patriarchal hierarchies yet nurtured a rich cultural tapestry that is evident to this day.

The heart of the course focuses on Mexico's long and turbulent transition from Spanish colony to the nation it is today. Nineteenth-century topics include the viability of the federal system; the war with the United States that resulted in the loss of roughly half its territory; violent liberal and conservative struggles; the French Intervention and Restoration; and the rise of Porfirio Díaz. Into the 20th century, we discuss the Porfiriato's lurch toward modernity; the causes and consequences of the Mexican Revolution; the PRI's long one-party dominance; postwar Mexico's engagement with the wider world through sport, tourism, and cultural production; the growth of student activism; and waves of emigration to the United States. Finally, we focus on 21st-century questions such as challenges to the one-party system; the rise of indigenous movements; ongoing immigration questions; and the so-called Drug War.

**Goals and Objectives**

This course has several aims, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To obtain a general understanding of Mexican history from pre-Conquest times to the present;
- (2) To explore the interactions among indigenous, European, African-descended, and mixed-race peoples, as well as between women and men, in Mexico from the beginning of the 16th century to the present;
- (3) To analyze Mexico through the lenses of political, economic, religious, social, and cultural history; and

- (4) To interpret primary and secondary sources in order to gain a deeper awareness of the trajectory of Mexican history and to fashion coherent, well-supported arguments about the historical significance of various events and historical trends.

### Grading

Grading in this course is based on the following:

Attendance/Participation	15%
Modern Mexico Map Quiz	5%
Take-Home Exams (2)	40% (20% each)
Paper Prospectus	10%
Final Paper	30%

There are no grade curves in this class. Course grades are determined based on the above criteria and are determined according to the following point system:

92.5 points and above	A	72.5 to 76.4 points	C
89.5 to 92.4 points	A-	69.5 to 72.4 points	C-
86.5 to 89.4 points	B+	66.5 to 69.4 points	D+
82.5 to 86.4 points	B	59.5 to 66.4 points	D
79.5 to 82.4 points	B-	59.4 points and below	F
76.5 to 79.4 points	C+		

### Required Texts

Texts for purchase (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Matthew Restall. *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Timothy J. Henderson. *The Mexican Wars for Independence*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2009.
- Gilbert M. Joseph and Jürgen Buchenau. *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution: Social Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2013.

Textbook for rental (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Michael C. Meyer, William S. Sherman, and Susan M. Deeds. *The Course of Mexican History*. 9th edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Note: Although the 10th edition is more recent, the 9th edition is already at Text Rental and will be the official textbook for the course. Students wishing to purchase this text may use the 10th edition for course discussion, take-home exams, and final papers, but do not use editions earlier than the 9th.

### Book chapters (Available on E-Reserves)

- Elinor G.K. Melville. *A Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the Conquest of Mexico*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Chapter 1: "Introduction," pp. 1-16.
- Will Fowler. *Santa Anna of Mexico*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007. Chapter 8: "The Warrior President, 1835-1837," pp. 158-183.
- Deena J. González. *Refusing the Favor: The Spanish-Mexican Women of Santa Fe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. Chapter 2: "Women Under Siege: Sexuality and the Gendered Economies of Colonization, 1840-1852," pp. 39-78.
- David E. Hayes-Bautista. *El Cinco de Mayo: An American Tradition*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. Chapter 4: "The Juntas Patrióticas Mejicanas Blossom," pp. 101-131.
- Jeffrey M. Pilcher. *Planet Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. Chapter 3: "From the Pastry War to Parisian Mole," pp. 79-104.
- Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo. *I Speak of the City: Mexico City at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012. Chapter 2: "On 1910 Contrasts: Washington and Mexico City," pp. 43-62.
- Jo Tuckman. *Mexico: Democracy Interrupted*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012. Chapter 1: "Narco Trouble," pp. 18-51.

### In-Class Film Screenings

*Engineering an Empire: The Aztecs*. Directed by Mark Cannon. 2006. 44 min.

*The U.S.-Mexican War (1846-1848)*. Directed by Ginny Martin. 1998. Parts 1 and 2.

*The Storm that Swept Mexico*. Part I: The Tiger Is Unleashed. Part II: The Legacy. Directed by Ray Telles. 2011. 124 min.

*Reportero*. Directed by Bernardo Ruiz. PBS P.O.V. episode. 2013. 60 min.

(The instructor may schedule additional film screenings as circumstances permit.)

### Course Requirements (Attendance/Participation, Quiz, and Take-Home Exams)

**Attendance/Participation.** Class discussion is an integral part of this course. Regular attendance is not sufficient; you must participate actively in class discussions to receive a high participation grade. Please be on time and remain for the duration of class; should you need to leave early, please inform me ahead of time. Documented absences due to serious medical or personal reasons will be excused. Attendance/participation is worth 15% of your course grade.

**Map Quiz.** The map quiz tests your knowledge of Mexico's 31 states and one federal district. During our September 22 class, you will have 10 minutes to match 10 of these names to letters that have been marked on a blank map. The map quiz is worth 5% of your course grade.

**Take-Home Exams.** Students must complete two take-home exams that will be distributed in class and uploaded to D2L one week beforehand. These will ask you to synthesize material from relevant class discussions, readings, and films. Each exam requires students to answer two of four possible essay questions. The second exam is not cumulative but rather covers material discussed or assigned since the completion of the first exam. The take-home exams are due on October 20 and December 8. Each take-home exam is worth 20% of your course grade.

### **Course Requirements (Final Paper)**

The culmination of the course is a final paper based on your own original research. There are three steps to the process:

**Paper Topic.** Your final paper is on a topic of your choice related to Mexico from the pre-colonial era to the present. By October, you may consult a list of potential topics and sources that I will post to D2L, but you are encouraged to develop your own topic if you choose. You are strongly advised to submit a one-paragraph description of your topic by November 3 so as to obtain my immediate feedback and be able to make suggested changes before writing your prospectus. (Paper topics will be accepted until November 10.) This assignment is not graded.

**Paper Prospectus.** You will be asked to hand in a one- to two-page final paper prospectus with an additional one-page bibliography by November 17. This assignment is worth 10% of your final course grade.

**Final Paper.** Your final paper should be between 2,000-2,250 words (approximately eight to nine pages double-spaced), not including title, bibliography, and citations. The final paper is due during our scheduled final exam meeting time and counts for 30% of your final course grade.

### **Course Drops and Withdrawals**

Students wishing to drop this course may do so through myPoint between Wednesday, September 2, and Monday, September 14. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, November 6, will receive a "W" on their transcripts. After Friday, November 6, drops are generally not permitted. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/AddDropSchedule.aspx> for information.

### **Reading, Make-Ups, Extra Credit, and Accommodations**

**Reading.** You are expected to finish all reading assignments by the start of the class for which they have been assigned, unless otherwise indicated.

**Make-Ups.** Should there be significant reasons outside of your control (major personal or family issues, illness, or bereavement for the loss of a close human friend or family member) that prevent you from completing an assignment, please contact me immediately and we shall discuss your situation. I require documentation for absences prior to scheduling a make-up.

Oversleeping, forgetting an assignment deadline, confusion over Daylight Savings Time changes, vacation plans, or the loss of a pet are NOT acceptable reasons to obtain a make-up.

**Extra Credit.** Should extra-credit opportunities arise on our campus during the semester – e.g., a visiting speaker, film screening, or exhibit relevant to the material discussed in this class –, I will inform all enrolled students in advance. These are offered to bolster students' participation grade and are limited to three opportunities per student per semester (each extra credit will make up for one-half of one unexcused absence; those with perfect attendance will receive additional points toward their participation grade). Completion of these opportunities will not affect other graded components of this course. Please do not contact me during the semester to request the opportunity to obtain extra credit for other work.

**Accommodations.** Students with learning and/or physical disabilities requiring special accommodations must provide appropriate documentation to UWSP Disability Services (609 Learning Resource Center, tel. (715) 346-3365, TTY (715) 346-3362, <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/students/studentinformation.aspx>) at the start of the semester. Disability Services staff will work directly with the instructor to provide suitable learning accommodations.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Copyright Notice**

You are not permitted to use laptops, tablet computers, smart phones or other cellular phones, MP3 players, smart watches, video and/or audio recorders, cameras, headphones, or any other electronic devices and accessories during our class meetings, whether for personal reasons or as an aid to your note taking. (Such devices may be brought to the classroom but must be stored among your personal items for the duration of the class period.)

As an enrolled student in this class, you may download and/or utilize the instructor's course materials for your own personal academic purposes outside of class time, although doing so does not in any way infringe upon the instructor's copyright protections. You are not permitted to videotape, audiotape, photograph, digitize, upload to another web site, or otherwise reproduce or distribute any images, data, and other course materials – including syllabus, lecture outlines, timelines, and other handouts – produced by the instructor.

This electronic device and copyright policy will be strictly enforced. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class. Violators may also be subject to Academic Misconduct charges (see below). Exceptions may be made for students with prior written documentation of a disability from UWSP Disability Services and with the instructor's written consent.

### **Student Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of student academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. Students who violate University policy on this matter will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) the possibility of failing this course. Please consult Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>), for more information on what types of activities are considered "academic misconduct" and what the disciplinary sanctions are for students who engage in them.

### **Emergency Response**

To familiarize yourself with UWSP response scenarios in the case of an emergency, consult the university's Emergency Procedures at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures>.

### **Use of Email for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is an official mode of university correspondence; you are therefore responsible for reading your email for university- and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your email address. Please check your email regularly to stay current with course-related communications, some of which may be time-critical.

### **Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change (though major change is unlikely). Should there be a modification of discussion topic, assigned reading, film screening, assignment deadline, or other item, I shall strive to give you adequate notice.

## Course Schedule

Note: “Textbook” refers to *The Course of Mexican History*. “Scholarship” refers to *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, *The Mexican Wars for Independence*, and *Mexico’s Once and Future Revolution*, as well as to book chapters available on E-Reserves and/or our D2L site. Some chapters of the textbook may be skimmed, while others should be read closely in their entirety; see each week’s assignment for details. (You are expected to read all of the scholarship materials closely in their entirety.)

### September 8 (Week 1): Introduction to Mexico and to the Course

Textbook: None

Scholarship: None

### September 15 (Week 2): Pre-Colombian Mexico

Screening: *Engineering an Empire: The Aztecs*

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 1-3 (skim), Chapters 4-5 (read)

Scholarship: [Book excerpt:] Elinor G.K. Melville, *A Plague of Sheep*, Introduction

### September 22 (Week 3): The Conquest

Assignment: **Modern Mexico map quiz (start of class)**

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 6-7 (read)

Scholarship: *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

### September 29 (Week 4): Colonial Mythologies

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapter 8 (skim)

Scholarship: *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, Chapters 4-7 and Epilogue

### October 6 (Week 5): Colonial Society and the Stirrings of Revolution

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 9-14 (skim)

Scholarship: *The Mexican Wars for Independence*, Preface and Chapters 1-5

### October 13 (Week 6): The Wars for Independence and Aftermath

Assignment: **Take-home exam #1 prompt distributed in class**

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 15-16 (skim)

Scholarship: *The Mexican Wars for Independence*, Chapters 6-9 and Epilogue

**October 20 (Week 7): Santa Anna and the Texas Problem**

**Assignment:** Take-home exam #1 due

Screening: *The U.S.-Mexican War (1846-1848)*, Part 1

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 17-18 (read)

Scholarship: [Book excerpt:] Will Fowler, *Santa Anna of Mexico*, Chapter 8

**October 27 (Week 8): The U.S.-Mexico War**

Screening: *The U.S.-Mexican War (1846-1848)*, Part 2

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapter 19 (read)

Scholarship: [Book excerpt:] Deena J. González, *Refusing the Favor*, Chapter 2

**November 3 (Week 9): The Reform, French Intervention, and Restoration**

**Assignment:** Preferred deadline to submit paper topics

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 20-22 (read)

Scholarship: [Book excerpt:] David E. Hayes-Bautista, *El Cinco de Mayo*, Chapter 4

**November 10 (Week 10): The Onset of the Porfiriato**

**Assignment:** Final date to submit paper topics

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 23-24 (read)

Scholarship: *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*, Chapter 1-2

**November 17 (Week 11): Society and Culture during the Porfiriato**

**Assignment:** Paper prospectus and bibliography due

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapter 25 (read)

Scholarship: [Book excerpt:] Jeffrey M. Pilcher, *Planet Taco*, Chapter 3  
[Book excerpt:] Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo, *I Speak of the City*, Chapter 2

**November 24 (Week 12): The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920**

Screening: *The Storm that Swept Mexico*, Part I: The Tiger Is Unleashed



Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 26-29 (skim), Chapter 30 (read)

Scholarship: *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*, Chapters 3-4

**December 1 (Week 13): The Mexican Revolution, 1920-1940**

**Assignment:** Take-home exam #2 prompt distributed in class

Screening: *The Storm that Swept Mexico*, Part II: The Legacy

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 31-33 (skim), Chapter 34 (read)

Scholarship: *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*, Chapters 5-6

**December 8 (Week 14): The 1940s-1980s**

**Assignment:** Take-home exam #2 due

**We will have a Mexican-themed potluck celebration today; students bringing an item to share will receive one extra credit toward their attendance/participation grade.**

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 35-36 (skim)

Scholarship: *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*, Chapters 7-8

**December 15 (Week 15): Neoliberalism and the Drug War**

Screening: *Reportero*

Textbook: *The Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 37-38 (skim), Chapter 39 (read)

Scholarship: *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*, Chapter 9  
[Book excerpt:] Jo Tuckman, *Mexico: Democracy Interrupted*, Chapter 1

**\*\* Hist 351/551 final research papers are due by the end of our regularly scheduled final exam meeting time, which is Monday, December 21, 2015, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. CST. To avoid late penalties, you will need to upload your final paper to the appropriate D2L Dropbox and submit it in hard copy form to Prof. Reejhsinghani no later than 12:15 p.m. CST on Monday, December 21, 2015. \*\***