

History 3352
Triumphs and Tragedy: The History of Mexico
Fall 2018

Instructor	Benjamin C. Montoya, Ph.D.	Office Hours	Tuesday and Thursdays 12.30-1.30pm
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Meets	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11.00-11.50am, Weir 109	E-mail	bmontoya@schreiner.edu

Welcome to History 3352! This course analyzes the trajectory of Mexican history from the nation's Mesoamerican beginnings to the mid-twentieth century. During these centuries, we will see how a region comprised of disparate and conflicting indigenous tribes developed into one of the most-vibrant and wealthy nations of the modern world. Yet, this process has been wrought as much by tragedy as by triumph, involving years of colonialism, internal conflict, civil war, foreign intervention, diplomatic marginalization, poverty, economic underdevelopment and inequality, government corruption, and crime. We will consider all of these themes in depth as a way to understand the course of Mexican history. Ultimately, we will ask—and try to answer—why Mexico is the nation it is today. I am glad you are aboard!

Course Goals

- ◆ To become aware of Mexico's past and to appreciate historical diversity.
- ◆ To think critically about Mexican history and the various peoples involved in it.
- ◆ To expand skills in reading, critical evaluation and synthesis of information within the framework of history.
- ◆ To gain an understanding of major historical concepts, perspectives and vocabulary.
- ◆ To read, analyze, and discuss selected primary and secondary source materials.
- ◆ To develop your ability to present ideas and arguments clearly and logically through discussion and in written form.
- ◆ To practice skills in leading peers through educational activities.

Required Texts for the Course

- ◆ Susan M. Deeds, et al., *The Course of Mexican History*, 11th edition.
- ◆ Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson, eds., *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics*.
 - Note on Readings: Pages indicated with **CMH** on the Course Schedule below are from Deeds, et al., *The Course of Mexican History*. Pages indicated with **TMR** are from Joseph and Henderson, *The Mexico Reader*. Reading assignments are due by the corresponding date shown in the course schedule.

Course and Institutional Policies

Class Time=Special Time: *Every class time is a special time.* It is when we will meet to discuss the important issues of Mexican history. You should think of our class time as **special time**, during which you are expected to engage fully in the lectures and discussions, free from external distraction. Therefore, electronic devices are allowed only for notetaking purposes. If I find that your use of electronics is distracting you and your classmates seated around you, I will ask you to refrain from using your device. If the problem persists, I will excuse you from the classroom.

As well as being prepared for class, I expect you to respect your classmates, me, and our work. I expect you to participate in class appropriately and frequently, and to ask lots of questions. Likewise, you can expect me to be prepared for class. You can expect me to keep my office hours and respond to emails in a timely manner (usually within 24 business hours). Also, you can expect me to respect you and your work; to answer questions when I can, and find answers or resources and provide guidance when I cannot.

Communication: Outside of class, email will be our primary form of correspondence; therefore, it is important that you are clear in your communication via email. Address me as “Dr. Montoya” or “Professor Montoya” in emails (as well as class), unless I indicate otherwise. Always signoff an email with your name, and ensure that you have proofread your email before sending it. Do not ask questions on matters you can resolve yourself by looking at the course materials. I will not respond to emails that are unclear due to typographical errors, do not address me by name at the beginning of the message, and do not provide the name of the addresser (email writer).

Academic Integrity/Dishonesty Policy: The standards pertaining to Academic Integrity/Dishonesty will be rigorously enforced. Academic Dishonesty is defined as any incidence in which a student presents another’s work, in whole or part, as his or her own. This includes exam answers, research papers, and the like. Therefore, cheating in any form and plagiarism (the act of stealing or using the ideas or writings of another and representing them as one’s own) will not be tolerated. Student papers are subject to review by a plagiarism checking service (for example, Turnitin.com). Violations may result in an F grade for this course and possible expulsion from the University.

Make-Up Policy: Missed assignments—in-class discussions, essays, and exams—cannot be made up.

Substances, Victuals, and Libations: the use of tobacco products as well as the consumption of food or beverage in the classroom is strictly prohibited, apart from water in a water bottle.

Section 504 Compliance Statement: Special Circumstances Schreiner University is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students and is compliant with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 with respect to providing appropriate academic accommodations to students with qualifying conditions. Students seeking accommodations should contact Dr. Jude Gallik, the Section 504 Coordinator, by calling 830.792.7258, e-mailing jgallik@schreiner.edu or by stopping by Room 218, Dickey Hall. Professional documentation of the qualifying condition is required for consideration of the request.

Students with mobility impairments whose instructor's office is inaccessible should contact the instructor directly to make alternative arrangements. If such arrangements are unsatisfactory, the student should contact the Section 504 Coordinator.

Course Prerequisites: At least 12 credits of lower division History courses.

Course Assessment & Assignments: Percentage of Total Course Grade

- ◆ Attendance, 5%
- ◆ In-Class Discussion Participation, 30%
- ◆ Book Review, 25%
- ◆ Mid-Term, 20%
- ◆ Final, 20%

Assessment: It is important you remain accountable to the coursework; therefore, be sure you keep up with all the work. You will be confronted with a lot of material and information during the term. It is very difficult to catch up if you get behind or procrastinate. Regular participation in class is expected as a sign of your intellectual curiosity and commitment to the learning process. Students are expected to participate fully in all interactive learning experiences and to demonstrate critical thinking and synthesis skills in class discussions, critical reading, and peer review.

Attendance: I will keep attendance. Please be punctual to each class. Contact me if there is a reason you will be tardy. If you are going to be massively late (15+ minutes), please refrain from coming to class and ask a classmate about what you missed. Habitual tardiness will negatively affect your overall grade. If you accrue more than three unexcused absences, your attendance grade will go down a letter grade for each absence thereafter.

In-Class Discussion: This class will have an intensive in-class discussion component. All discussions will be based on the primary documents found in *The Mexico Reader* (TMR). See the course schedule below for exact reading assignments each week.

Every student will be expected to contribute to our conversations about Mexican history. Most weeks will have a class session dedicated solely to discussing primary documents relevant to the subtopic at hand. During each discussion session students will be expected to share their *critical* thoughts (based on their readings of the primary documents, not only opinions) about the readings with classmates. Students should also be prepared to comment on their classmates' insights about the readings. Sometimes we will discuss as small groups; other times as an entire class. Sometimes we will answer prepared questions from me; other times I will ask students to develop their own questions on the readings. In every situation, students should come to each discussion session ready to discuss important points from the readings.

Note on speaking in front of others: Although it is common to experience anxiety while speaking in front of others, it is an essential skill not only in academia but life itself. It is imperative that respect be given to the opinions of fellow classmates so that a safe environment to practice this important skill is fostered.

Book Review: During the semester each student will read and complete a review of a monograph on Mexican history. The essay should be around 5 to 7 pages and will identify the key arguments of the work, situate the analysis within the larger historiography of Mexican history, and consider how the book speaks to themes related to this course's content. Further details on the assignment will be provided later in the term.

Examinations: Two major examinations will be given during the semester, one at the midterm and the other on the final day of class. These exams will assess your command of the historical topics we will have discussed in class. The midterm exam will test you on the material from chapters 1-19 in *The Course of Mexican History* (CMH) and corresponding lectures up to the midterm. The final exam will test you on the material from chapters 20-34 of the same book and the corresponding lectures up to the final week of class. The final exam is *not* cumulative.

Grading Scale

Your total course grade will be determined on a 1 to 100 point scale. The percentages above reflect point values, totaling to 100 points. Depending on how well you complete the different course assignments, the total points earned will determine the final percentage and GPA of your course grade.

Feedback: I provide regular feedback on assignments so students are able to gauge their progress throughout the semester, with exception to class participation, which I tally on a rolling basis. Contact me if you have questions on the quality of your participation.

Final Grades for the course depend on the percentage of the total 100 points you earned during the semester. Below you will find a percentage-to-GPA chart.

A = 93-100%; A- = 90-92%; B+ = 88-89%; B = 83-87%; B- = 80-82%; C+ = 78-79%;
C = 73-77%; C- = 70-72%; D+ = 68-69%; D = 63-67%; D- = 60-62%; F = 0-59%

Tips for Success

- ◆ Take good notes and contribute to class.
- ◆ Take notes on the PowerPoint lessons.
- ◆ Take notes on your reading.
- ◆ Refer to your textbook regularly.
- ◆ Set up a notebook or binder to keep handouts, syllabus and your scores, etc.
- ◆ Keep in regular contact with your instructor, especially if you have questions or concerns about the course.
- ◆ Keep in touch with other students. Collaborative studying and peer discussions will further your knowledge and give you a different perspective.
- ◆ Always follow instructions.

Expectations from You:

- ◆ Prepared for class.
- ◆ Respect for other students, me and our work.
- ◆ Participate in class appropriately.
- ◆ Feel free to ask many questions.

Expectations from Me:

- ◆ Prepared for class.
- ◆ Keep meeting hours and respond to emails in a timely manner.
- ◆ Display respect for students and our work.
- ◆ Answer questions when I can; find answers, resources and provide guidance when I cannot.
- ◆ Have a clear expectation to be FAIR to all students.
- ◆ To be an awesome instructor.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Required Reading and Assignments
Week I	Week I	Week I
Monday, August 20 th	Introduction to the Course	Make sure you have the course books
Wednesday, 08/22	Initial Questions and Discussion: <i>The Search for “Lo Mexicano”</i>	TMR: 9-54
Friday, 08/24	Mesoamerica	CMH: 3-42
Week II	Week II	Week II
Monday, 08/27	Rise of the Aztecs	CMH: 43-72
Wednesday, 08/29	In-Class Discussion: <i>Ancient Civilizations</i>	TMR: 55-94
Friday, 08/31	Spain and the Context of Global Expansion	CMH: 73-86
Week III	Week III	Week III
Monday, 09/03	<i>Labor Day</i>	No Class
Wednesday, 09/05	The Conquest of Mexico	CMH: 86-99
Friday, 09/07	The Creation of New Spain	CMH: 99-112
Week IV	Week IV	Week IV
Monday, 09/10	In-Class Discussion: <i>Conquest and Colony</i>	TMR: 95-130
Wednesday, 09/12	Challenging the “Colonial Siesta”	CMH: 113-126
Friday, 09/14	The Colonial Economy	CMH: 127-141
Week V	Week V	Week V
Monday, 09/17	The Colonial Church	CMH: 142-157
Wednesday, 09/19	In-Class Discussion: <i>Conquest and Colony</i>	TMR: 131-168
Friday, 09/21	Colonial Society and Culture	CMH: 157-194
Week VI	Week VI	Week VI

Monday, 09/24	Professor Sick	
Wednesday, 09/26	The Bourbon Era	CMH: 195-207
Friday, 09/28	Restiveness in New Spain	CMH: 208-223
Week VII	Week VII	Week VII
Monday, 10/01	Wars for Independence	CMH: 223-240
Wednesday, 10/03	In-Class Discussion: <i>Trials of the Young Republic</i>	TMR: 169-195
Friday, 10/05	The Growing Pains of a New Nation	CMH: 241-250
Week VIII	Week VIII	Week VIII
Monday, 10/08	<i>Fall Break</i>	No Class
Wednesday, 10/10	Midterm Exam	Study Hard! Bring a Bluebook to class!
Friday, 10/12	A Crumbling Republic	CMH: 251-269
Week IX	Week IX	Week IX
Monday, 10/15	Dictatorship and Invasion	CMH: 270-280
Wednesday, 10/17	In-Class Discussion: <i>Trials of the Young Republic</i>	TMR: 196-238
Friday, 10/19	The Restored Republic	CMH: 281-318
Week X	Week X	Week X
Monday, 10/22	In-Class Discussion: <i>Trials of the Young Republic</i>	TMR: 239-272
Wednesday, 10/24	Order and Progress	CMH: 319-334
Friday, 10/26	-----	
Week XI	Week XI	Week XI
Monday, 10/29	Order and Progress	
Wednesday, 10/31	-----	
Friday, 11/02		
Week XII	Week XII	Week XII
Monday, 11/05	Order and Progress, part ii; The Modernization of Mexico	CMH: 345-356
Wednesday, 11/07	The Costs of Modernization	CMH: 335-344
Friday, 11/09	In-Class Discussion: <i>Trials of the Young Republic</i>	TMR: 273-296

Week XIII	Week XIII	Week XIII
Monday, 11/12	Cracks in the Porfirian Veneer	CMH: 357-367
Wednesday, 11/14	The Great Rebellion	CMH: 367-377 Book Review Notes Due in class, in hardcopy form
Friday, 11/16	The Mexican Revolution	CMH: 378-390
Week XIV	Week XIV	Week XIV
Monday, 11/19	The Mexican Revolution, part ii	CMH: 391-422 Book Reviews Due in class, in hardcopy form
Wednesday, 11/21	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	No Class
Friday, 11/23	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	No Class
Week XV	Week XV	Week XV
Monday, 11/26	In-Class Discussion: <i>Revolution</i>	TMR: 333-363
Wednesday, 11/28	In-Class Discussion: <i>Revolution</i>	TMR: 364-402
Friday, 11/30	The Travails of the Post-Revolutionary Nation	CMH: 423-434
Week XVI	Week XVI	Week XVI
Monday, 12/03	In-Class Discussion: <i>Revolution</i>	TMR: 403-427
Wednesday, 12/05	Presentation of Book Reviews	Day One
Friday, 12/07	Presentation of Book Reviews	Day Two
Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam
Monday, 12/10, During Normal Classtime	In Our Classroom	Study Hard! Bring a Bluebook!

Note on Course Lessons and Course Schedule: All course lessons are in PowerPoint form and will be made available to you each class day after our meeting. You will find them on our Canvas page. The course schedule is subject to change according to class pace, student needs, Schreiner scheduling needs, etc. I will update you when changes are made, as well as provide an updated syllabus to the History 3352 Canvas page. The pace of the course will be brisk and it is essential that you keep up.