

**HTST 467: The History of Mexico**

University of Calgary

Department of History

Fall 2016

MWF 9:00-9:50

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Office Hours: MWF 10-11, and by  
appointment

**Course Description:**

In this course we will investigate the history of Mexico, from colonial period to the present. Using the methodologies of political, economic, social, cultural, and gender history, we will consider the development of this modern nation-state. We will survey important political and economic events in Mexican history, with a focus on how these broader trends intersected with cultural and social change in an ethnically diverse and economically stratified society. As well as developing an understanding of Mexican history, students will improve their writing, critical analysis, and public speaking skills by completing the assignments for this course.

**Required Texts:**

Beezley, William H. *Mexico in World History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

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

Curcio-Nagy, Linda A. *The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City: Performing Power and Identity*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004.

Benjamin, Thomas. *La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution as Memory, Myth, and History*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.

Required texts are available for purchase at the bookstore, and have been placed on reserve at the library.

**Suggested Reading:**

"The History Student's Handbook: A Short Guide to Writing History Essays" (available at <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook1.pdf>).

### Course Grading:

Book Review (due October 14)	20%
Critical Essay (due November 7)	20%
Research Essay (due December 2)	40%
Participation	20%

Students must complete all assignments to pass this course.

### Course Requirements:

**Research Project:** Research essays will be on a topic of the student's choosing relating to the history of Latin America since Independence. Students must discuss topics with the instructor.

**Book Review:** Students will choose a monograph on a topic that they are interested in researching throughout the course of the semester. Students should consult the professor regarding the choice of an appropriate topic and monograph. Book reviews should be 3 pages in length and conform to *The History Student's Handbook* in matters of style.

**Critical Essay:** Students will select three articles on the same topic as the monograph reviewed and weigh the arguments and evidence presented by the three authors. Internet sources, such as Wikipedia, should not be used, but journal articles that were accessed via the internet, using databases such as JSTOR, Historical Abstracts, and Project Muse that are available on the library's website, are encouraged. Critical essays should be 4-5 pages in length. Be sure to consult *The History Student's Handbook* for help with footnotes.

**Research Essay:** Research essays will represent the culmination of each student's research throughout the semester, and will be on the same topic as the book review and critical essay. Research essays should be 12 pages (3000 words) in length. Be sure to consult *The History Student's Handbook* for help with footnotes. The essay will be assessed on the basis of both the clarity of argument and writing effectiveness (grammar, style, etc.). Bibliographies must include at least 10 sources, in addition to the book and the journal articles from the book review and critical essay.

**Participation:** Participation will be evaluated on the basis of students' contributions to classroom discussions of the required readings. Extra credit opportunities will go towards students' participation grades.

### Course Policies:

Please feel free to call or come to see me during my office hours. If you cannot come during the posted times, I would be happy to make an appointment for a mutually convenient meeting time.

Please feel free to e-mail me, but be aware that it may take up to 48 hours for me to respond.

Regular attendance at lectures is essential to students' successful completion of the course.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic devices to take notes during lectures, but should refrain from surfing the internet and other behaviour that is disruptive to fellow students.

All written work **must** conform in matters of style to the guidelines in the *The History Student's Handbook*.

Late assignments that are not accompanied by a legitimate excuse such as a doctor's note will be penalised **one third of a letter grade per day** (e.g. From B + to B).

Students who anticipate difficulty meeting a deadline (for academic or personal reasons) should request an extension at least 48 hours **before** an assignment's due date.

Students will treat the instructor and fellow students with respect. Refrain from disruptive behaviour. Turn your cell phones off during lecture. Be punctual.

### Course Outline

Week 1: September 12-16

Introduction and Mesoamerica before the Conquest

Readings:

Beezley: Chapter 1

Joseph and Henderson: "The Problem of National Culture," "Popol Vuh," "The Meaning of Maize for the Maya"

Latin American Studies Welcome Reception, Hotel Alma Bistro, September 15, 3:30-5:30 pm

*¡Viva México! September 16 Independence Day*

Week 2: September 19-23

The Conquest

Readings:

Contrast and Comparison of the Conquest

<https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/classroom-content/teaching-and-learning-in-the-digital-age/the-conquest-of-mexico/contrast-and-comparison-exercises>

Beezley: Chapter 2

Joseph and Henderson: "The Spiritual Conquest"

Week 3: September 26-30

## Colonial New Spain

### Readings:

Curcio-Nagy, Chapters 1-4

Joseph and Henderson: "Why the Indians Are Dying," "The Colonial Latifunio," "On Men's Hypocrisy"

Week 4: October 3-7

## The Twilight of the Colonial System

### Readings:

Curcio-Nagy, Chapters 5-7

Joseph and Henderson: "A Baroque Archbishop-Viceroy," "The Itching Parrot, the Priest, and the Subdelegate"

Week 5: October 12-14

*October 10 Thanksgiving Day*

BOOK REVIEW DUE October 14

## Independence

### Readings:

Beezley: Chapter 3

Joseph and Henderson: "The Siege of Guanajuato," "Sentiments of the Nation," "Plan of Iguala"

Week 6: October 17-21

## The First Republic

### Readings:

Beezley: Chapter 4

Joseph and Henderson: "Women and War in Mexico," "The Glorious Revolution of 1844," "Décimas Dedicated to Santa Anna's Leg," "War and Finance, Mexican Style"

Week 7: October 24-28

## Liberalism and National Reconstruction

### Readings:

William H. Beezley, "Chapter 2. Tightly Knotted Nodes of Possibility: Almanacs and Lotería." In *Mexican National Identity: Memory, Innuendo, and Popular Culture*.

Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2008.

Joseph and Henderson: "A Conservative Profession of Faith," "Liberals and the Land," "Offer of the Crown to Maximilian," "A Letter from Mexico," "The Triumph of the Republic,"

Week 8: October 31- November 4

*Día de los Muertos November 2*

The Porfiriato

Readings:

Stanley Brandes, "Iconography in Mexico's Day of the Dead: Origins and Meaning," *Ethnohistory* 45:2 (Spring, 1998): 181-218.

Beezley: Chapter 5

Joseph and Henderson: "Standard Plots and Rural Resistance," "Porfirio Díaz Visits Yucatán," "President Díaz, Hero of the Americas," "Gift of the Skeletons,"

Week 9: November 7-9

CRITICAL ESSAYS DUE November 7

*Remembrance Day November 11*

The Mexican Revolution

Readings:

Beezley: Chapter 6

Benjamin: Part I

Joseph and Henderson: "Land and Liberty," "Plan of Ayala," "Pancho Villa," "Pedro Martínez"

Week 10: November 14-18

Revolutionary Reconstruction

Readings:

María Teresa Fernández-Aceves, "The Struggle between the *Metate* and the *Molinos de Nixtamal* in Guadalajara, 1920-1940," in Mary Kay Vaughan et al, eds. *Sex in Revolution* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Joseph and Henderson: "The Constitution of 1917" "The Cosmic Race," "The Ballad of Valentín of the Sierra," "Mexico Must Become a Nation of Institutions and Laws," "The Agrarian Reform in La Laguna," "The Oil Expropriation," "Cárdenas and the Masses,"

Week 11: November 21-25

*!Viva México! Revolution Day November 20*

From Redistribution to Evolution

Readings:

Beezley: Chapter 7

Benjamin: Part II

Joseph and Henderson: "They Gave Us the Land," "Struggles of a Campesino Leader"

Week 12: November 28-December 2

## RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE December 2

## Dictablanda

## Readings:

Eric Zolov, "Showcasing the 'Land of Tomorrow: Mexico and the 1968 Olympics," *The Americas* 61:2 (Oct., 2004): 159-188.

Joseph and Henderson: "The Sons of La Malinche," "Mexico's Crisis," "Art and Corruption," "The Two Faces of Acapulco," "The Dark Deeds of 'El Negro' Durazo," "The Student Movement of 1968"

## Week 13: December 5-9

## Into the New Millenium

## Readings:

Beezley: Chapter 8

Alma Guillermoprieto, "Mexico," *Looking for History: Dispatches from Latin America* (New York: Vintage, 2001).

Joseph and Henderson: "After the Earthquake," "Letters to Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas," "EZLN Demands at the Dialogue Table," "A Tzotzil Chronicle of the Zapatista Uprising," "Debtors' Revenge," "Mexico City 1992" "The Sinking City," "Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl,"

## **Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information**

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist** - For departmental updates and notifications

### **Writing:**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

### **Writing Support:**

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Copyright:**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

### **Red Box Policy:**

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00

p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90–100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85–89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80–84	A–	3.70	
77–79	B+	3.30	
73–76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70–72	B–	2.70	
67–69	C+	2.30	
63–66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60–62	C–	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56–59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50–55	D	1.00	
0–49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or



passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

### **Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

### **Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **Other Useful Information:**

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

*Safewalk and Campus Security*: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

*Freedom of Information*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

*Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

*Safewalk*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

*Student Union Information*: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

*Graduate Student Association:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

*Student Ombudsman Office:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

*Fall 2016*