

HISTORY OF MEXICO (HIST 4368/MAS 4368) - FALL 2012

MWF 11-11:50, UH 02

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Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course covers more than three millenia of Mexican history, from ancient indigenous civilizations to the present. Particular emphasis is given to the pre-Hispanic and colonial periods and the development of Mexican society through religious and cultural exchanges.

CLASS PREREQUISITES: No special requirements or prerequisites

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Richmond, *The Mexican Nation*
- Joseph and Henderson, *The Mexico Reader*
- Azuela, *The Underdogs*
- 1 package of 3x5 index cards

CLASS FORMAT: This class is highly participatory. In addition to short lectures, this class will utilize classroom discussions, active and team based learning, primary sources, film, and even social media. I prefer a lively classroom where students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas and opinions, however, I ask that students maintain proper classroom etiquette. Some elements of this course are online in Blackboard. Students should come to class fully prepared to participate and should bring their index cards. Attendance is taken.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (Course Objectives): Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify key events, peoples, individuals, terms, periodizations and chronology of the history of Mexico.
- demonstrate awareness of the basic geography of Mexico.
- develop analytical skills by scrutinizing primary source documents
- develop critical thinking skills by discussing the living nature of history, critiquing different interpretations of the same events and explaining how the manipulation of the past can provide insights into later periods.
- synthesize diverse historical information on broad themes of Mexican history and present this information in coherent, well-articulated and well-substantiated discussions, essays and other written work

ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Your grade for this course will be based upon 400 quality points. Your semester grade is based upon quizzes (25%); written assignments (45%) and participation (30%).

Grade Scale: A =400-360; B = 320-359; C = 280-319; D = 240-279; F = 239 and below

NOTE: Students have one week from the posting of an assignment or quiz grade to challenge the grade

or bring up any concerns. All grades are considered final after this period passes and will not be revisited.

QUIZZES

There are 5 short answer/multiple choice quizzes, one for each unit in the course. They assess how well you are learning the course content, or the basic "facts." Quizzes are taken online in Blackboard and are timed and open book/note. Each quiz is worth up to 20 points each.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There are two essays and one biographical sketch in this course. Full information on each assignment will be posted in the Blackboard module for this course. Each of the assignments is worth up to 60 points each.

PARTICIPATION

There will be opportunities for daily participation in this course. These opportunities range from discussions, to small group work, to reading/material checks, to in-class assignments. I will drop the four lowest grades. Information on how your final participation grade will be calculated is included in the Blackboard module and will be explained in class. You need to bring one 3x5 index card to each class period. Your participation grade is worth a total of up to 120 points.

Full information on each of these assignments is available in the course module.

Calculating Your Grade: I will not calculate interim class grades for students. To determine where you stand in the class at any given time use the following calculation: Divide the number of quality points you have earned by the total number of quality points available to that point and multiply by 100% to get your interim percentage semester grade. (Note: Blackboard uses "fuzzy math" in calculating the "out of" points, however your "earned points" are calculated correctly). Final grades in this course are awarded upon simple addition of earned quality points according to the aforementioned scale.

CLASS OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS: - Can be found in the online Course Module.

CLASS CALENDAR: Can be found in the online Course Module

CLASS POLICIES AND INFORMATION - The Fine Print

A Respectful Learning Environment: It is the goal of the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts to create and maintain a respectful learning environment. The official policy concerning communications within this course is stated below:

"When contacting your instructor via email, remember to construct your messages both respectfully and carefully (be as specific as possible with your questions). In this course, as with any other UTA course, your communication with fellow students and faculty should be the utmost professional. When communicating with your peers and instructor, there will be NO discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, veteran status, age, physical handicap, or marital status. Keep in mind that instructors reserve the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. All UTA students are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with UTA's Standard Code of Conduct. Students violating these codes will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct."

Participation Policy: Regular participation is required and comprises 20% of the semester grade.

Drop Policy: See your advisor and discuss with me your class status before you decide to drop this course. The last day to drop is in the Blackboard course calendar.

E-Mail Policy: The University email address is the official means of communication with students. *I require all students to check their UTA email account frequently.*

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing me of your needs at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of UTA that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. I take scholastic dishonesty very seriously – if the excerpt below is unclear, see me. I consider copying directly from the text or internet sites without proper citation as plagiarism. If in doubt, cite. I do not give credit for plagiarized assignments or cheating on exams and I will refer plagiarism to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

BOTTOM LINE: If you feel that you are falling behind, need help in writing or have any other difficulty with this course, please see/contact me right away and I will attempt to help you myself or direct you to available resources. Don't just flounder along, seek aid while there is still time to get a higher grade.