

## Syllabus Outline and Topics

**NOTE: THIS COURSE IS TAUGHT IN MEXICO AND REQUIRES EXCURSIONS TO COMPLEMENT MANY AREAS AND TOPICS DISCUSSED.**

**Spanish 3312: Topics in Latin American Culture: Mexican Culture and Civilization (cross-listed with Spanish 3313)**

### **General Description:**

The course *Introduction to the History of Mexico* is designed to provide the students with a general view of the development of the Mexican history and culture. We will begin with the conquest of Mexico. The impact of the encounter of two different world-views and the establishment of the Colonial rule will be studied. We will continue with a recount of the struggle for independence and the ups and downs that the emerging country faced during the Nineteenth Century. Special attention will be given to the Mexican Revolution. Political, social, and economic issues will be emphasized. Invasions, wars and factionalism during this period will be measured as causes of instability. Finally we will make a general view of the Contemporary Mexico from the times of the reconstruction of the nation to the arrival of Vicente Fox into the Presidency. We will focus on the particularities and differences that make Mexico a multicultural nation, considered as the product of centuries of social struggles.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To acquire knowledge about Mexican geography, history, society, art and culture of Mexico.
2. To develop oral and written communicative competence in the Spanish language.
3. To demonstrate successful mastery of materials through short essays, quizzed and exams.

### **Outline of the course**

I. Introduction to the course. Work guidelines.

II. The Conquest of Mexico

1. The conquerors. (Excursion to the ancient Aztec Civilization of Teotihuacán)
2. The military conquest.
3. The spiritual conquest.
4. The Colonial rule.

III. The emergence of the Mexican nation

1. The struggle for independence.

Discussion questions

- The foundation of the Mexican State.
- The War with the United States and the French Intervention
- Civil War: Liberals versus conservatives.
- The liberal reform.
- The “Porfiriato” and the influence of positivism.
- The Mexican revolution.

Discussion Questions

IV. Contemporary Mexico

1. The reconstruction of the nation.
2. The “Cristero” movement.
3. Lázaro Cárdenas.
4. Mexico 1968-1979.
5. 1980’s: Neoliberal economics and policies.
6. The arrival of the Pan into the Presidency.
7. Conclusions.