

HIST 357 HISTORY OF MEXICO

Syllabus

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COURSE CREDIT: Three Semester Hours

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 826** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Text

Meyer, M. C., Sherman, W. L., and Deeds, S. M. (2002). *The course of Mexican history*, (7th ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 0195148193 (paper)

Readings

Leon-Portilla, M. (Ed.) (1992). *The broken spears: The Aztec account of the conquest of Mexico*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. ISBN: 0807055018

Elliott, J.H. (1992). *The old world and the new, 1492-165*. (reprint edition). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521427096

Azuela, M. (reissue 1996). *The underdogs*. [Translated by E. Munguia]. New York: Signet Classic. ISBN: 0451526252

Paz, O. (1985). *The labyrinth of solitude*. New York: Grove Press.
ISBN: 080215042X

Supplemental Text

Turabian, K.L. (1996). *A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and dissertations*. (6th rev. ed.) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
ISBN: 0226816273

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will survey Mexican history from the pre-Columbian civilizations to the Chiapas Revolt at the end of the twentieth century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- (1) Students shall be able to identify historical content in the context of the times for the period covered in this course.
- (2) Students shall be able to knowledgeably discuss the significance of major themes, key concepts, and identifiable terms as related to the social, political, and intellectual history of the period, as demonstrated through the student's writing and examinations.
- (3) Students shall demonstrate appropriate historical writing and analysis skills by producing acceptable essays on the four assigned readings and in midterm and final examinations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **READING ASSIGNMENTS:** The course is divided into 15 units. The student should read the text as detailed in the lessons below. Keep in mind that you are reading in order to acquire a framework on which you can view this period of history in terms of key content and identifiable terms. Rather than being expected to memorize dates of events, you will be asked to demonstrate that you have developed an understanding not only of what happened, but of the overall significance of that event to the historical period. In addition to top line events (such as might appear in newspaper headlines of the time), you are reading for social, political, and intellectual content. What key concepts or core ideas are prevalent at the time? How are these ideas influencing social and political history? What are the key conflicts taking place? Who are the players? What are the core ideas or concepts underlying these conflicts? **The KEY TERMS that you should pay attention to in each chapter of each unit are listed in the study guide.**

At the end of Unit 8 and Unit 15 there will be a proctored examination consisting of term identifications and an essay question. You should write out your answers to each one of these questions, making sure that your answers are defensible; that is, that you can support the argument you are making utilizing specific citations from the historical record. Please refer to the rubric at the end of this syllabus for guidance on how to construct an essay response based on (a.) structure, (b.) evidence, and (c.) quality of writing.

2. **EXAMINATIONS.** Each exam is worth 30 percent of your grade for a total of 60 percent of your overall grade.

YOUR MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION WILL consist of one of the essay questions in the study guide, plus a list of eight key terms drawn from the unit key terms. You will be expected to choose five of the eight terms that appear on the exam. You will be asked to explain each term and identify the significance of each to the historical period.

3. **FOUR ESSAYS.** Each student shall craft four 2-page essays in response to the questions listed below. The essays will count for 40 percent (4X10%) of the total grade. These essays should be typed, double spaced, no more than 12-point font, one-inch margins all around.

Question 1: How would Mexica (Aztec) citizens of Tenochtitlan describe the conquest of their city by Cortes in the sixteenth century? How would their account differ from that of the Spanish version? **(Due at the end of Unit Four.)**

Question 2: According to J.H. Elliott, how did the discovery and exploration of the Americas by the Spanish change both the “Old” and the “New” World? **(Due at the end of Unit Six.)**

Question 3: Was the Mexican Revolution of the early twentieth century a success according to Mariano Azuela? Please use examples from *The Underdogs* to support your answer. **(Due at the end of Unit 10.)**

Question 4: Do you believe Octavio Paz’s observations on contemporary Mexico are accurate? Which section of his prize-winning essay, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, offered you the most insight into Mexican history and culture? **(Due at the end of Unit Fifteen.)**

4. **CONFERENCES.** In order to facilitate student learning and encourage contact with the instructor, students must make either phone or e-mail contact with Dr. Hilwig upon completion of Units 3, 8, and 14. The purpose of these conferences is to provide students with feedback on their written work, answer questions pertaining to their assignments, and clarify important themes within the readings. Failure to contact Dr. Hilwig will result in a grade of Incomplete for the course.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

Book Essays	40% (4x10% each)	90-100%	A
Midterm	30%	80-89%	B
Final	<u>30%</u>	70-79%	C
Total	100%	60-69%	D
		59% and below	F