

Bowling Green State University
Department of History
History 411: Modern Mexico

Instructor

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Place and Time:

Bus. Adm. Annex. 1002
Tu & Th 1:00-2:15
Office hours: Wed. 12-3

1. Description:

The purpose of this course is to explore the historical roots of the juncture in which Mexico is today. Despite a competitive and open political system, many (if not most) still find that their voice and their vote do not count. Despite the fact that Mexico is the home of some of the wealthiest people in the world, most Mexicans lack basic opportunities for education and employment. Finally, in spite of the deeply rooted personal, business and government links with the United States, the Northern neighbor is still perceived by Mexicans as much a threat as an advantage. The class explores how this interplay of democracy, development and (in/ter)dependence with the US has shaped the course of Mexican history and still constraints decision making in the present day.

Modern Mexico is both an upper-level survey and a discussion class. A textbook is not assigned for this class. Instead, we will focus on books and novels that cover a series of topics concerning political culture, the Mexican revolution, middle class counterculture movements in the 1960s, and the failure of the recent democratic and economic reforms to deliver welfare and inclusiveness to all. The narrative of the historical development of Mexico will be covered in lectures, not in a textbook.

2. Tasks and assignments

Papers

Two papers (11-12 pages each) based entirely on the assigned readings, lectures and movies. Professor Challú will provide with a topic for each paper, but students are free to request a special topic as long as it relies on all the syllabus readings.

Quizzes

Six short quizzes (ten minutes each) will be administered in class covering contents from lectures and readings. The quizzes will have a combination of multiple choice questions and a more substantial (yet short) question. The quizzes will partially rely on content delivered in lectures and screened movies.

Participation

History 411 being an upper-level class based on extensive readings, students are expected to actively participate in class with questions, opinions, and comments. Notice that both quizzes and papers partially rely on the lectures, so do not hesitate to voice any doubt in class or after class. If you perceive the class does not provide you with a comfortable atmosphere to speak, please contact me.

3. Grading and Assessment

Weights		Scale		Special dates
Papers	60%	A	90-99	Papers: 2/26 and 5/5
Participation	20%	B	80-89	Quizzes: 1/29, 2/12, 3/5, 3/26, 4/9, 4/30
Quizzes	20%	C	70-79	
		D	60-69	
		F	≤59	

All assignments should comply with the academic honesty policy. Do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you have any doubt.

4. Bibliography

All books are available in the bookstore:

- Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs: Pictures and Scenes from the Present Revolution: a Translation of Mariano Azuela's Los De Abajo With Related Texts*. Hackett Publishing Co., 2006.
- Gonzales, Michael J. *The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002.
- Guardino, Peter F. *The Time of Liberty: Popular Political Culture in Oaxaca, 1750-1850*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.
- Haber, Stephen H. *Mexico Since 1980*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Hellman, Judith Adler. *Mexican Lives*. Revised ed. ed. New York: New Press, 1999.
- Zolov, Eric. *Refried Elvis: The Rise of the Mexican Counterculture*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

5. Schedule of classes

Key: **In bold, date & topic**; in normal font: assignment to be completed before class; in italic: *other activities (including movies, quizzes and papers) in italics.*

1/13: Introduction to the class, and the late colonial period	1/15: Toward a new hegemony Guardino, 1-39
1/20: Peasants and empire Guardino, 40-90	1/22: Changes and continuities Guardino, 91-155
1/27: Conflicting national projects Guardino, 156-222	1/29: The new order in Oaxaca Guardino, 223-292 <i>Quiz</i>
2/3: The liberal triumph	2/5: The Porfiriato and “Revolution ‘Light’” Gonzales, 5-91
2/10: Counterrevolution and civil war Gonzales, ch. 92-132	2/12: One revolutionary to rule them all Gonzales, 133-181 <i>Quiz</i>
2/17: Los de abajo (the underdogs) Azuela	2/19: Los de abajo (the underdogs) Azuela <i>Screening of Vámonos con Pancho Villa (1)</i>
2/24: Los de abajo (the underdogs) <i>Screening of Vámonos con Pancho Villa (2)</i>	2/26: Political Culture and the Mexican Revolution <i>First paper due</i>
3/3: The 1920s Gonzales 182-220	3/5: Institutionalizing the Revolution Gonzales, 221-270 <i>Quiz</i>
3/17: The perfect dictatorship	3/18: ICS Lecture by Matthew Guttman, “Changing Men and Masculinities in Mexico” 7p BTSU Theatre (206)
	3/19: The Revolutionary family Zolov, 1-131
3/24: Managing dissent and crisis	3/26: Defying patriarchy and authoritarianism Zolov, 132-260 <i>Quiz</i>
3/31: The lost decade (1980s)	4/2: The political economy of authoritarianism Haber, 1-122

<p>4/7: The Salinas revolution</p>	<p>4/9: Everyday life in times of neoliberalism (1) Hellman, 1-112</p> <p><i>Quiz</i></p>
<p>4/14: The times of electoral democracy</p>	<p>4/16: The limits of democratization Haber, ch. 123-220</p>
<p>4/21: Everyday life in times of neoliberalism (2) Hellman, 113-184</p>	<p>4/23: Everyday life in times of neoliberalism (3) Hellman, 185-227 <i>Screening of "Letters from the Other Side" (1)</i></p>
<p>4/28: US-Mexico Relations <i>Screening of "Letters from the Other Side" (2)</i></p>	<p>4/30: Legacies, challenges, opportunities</p> <p><i>Quiz</i></p>
<p>5/5: <i>Final paper due</i></p>	