

***MEXICO: From the Olmecs to Independence (UP: pre-1800
Latin America)***

HST 206-201
T & Th., 10:10-11:40
Winter, 2005

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-3 pm and by appointment.

Course Description: This course surveys the history of Mexico from the pre-Columbian era to 1848. The course is organized in three parts. The first part of the course will examine the rise, fall, and continuities of Mesoamerican civilizations from the Olmecs to the Mexicas (Aztecs). The second part will focus on the Spanish conquest(s) of Mexico, the transformation of Native American peoples under Spanish rule, and construction of a multi-ethnic society. The last part surveys the Bourbon Reforms, Mexico's war of national liberation, and the problems associated with nation building in the aftermaths of Independence. The course ends with Mexico's defeat at the hands of the U.S. in 1848. Among the central themes that will be examined include the Indian question, the conflicts between "tradition" and "modernity", regionalism, and the unequal distribution of wealth.

This course can take for a Liberal Arts credit in the UP domain:

Chronological Category: Pre-1800

Geographical Category: Latin America

Course Requirements: Requirements for the course include a final exam, a mid-term exam, and a take-home interpretative essay exam. The exams will consist mainly of essay questions and historical definitions. The final exam will be comprehensive. Poorly written essays are detrimental to your grade. The take-home essay exam (six-pages, doubled-spaced, 12 pt.) will be distributed on February 3 and will be due on February 10. Late essay exams will be penalized (four points for every late day).

Note: Plagiarism will lead to a failing grade and further disciplinary actions. Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the Student Handbook or by visiting:<http://condor.depaul.edu/~handbook/code17.html>.

Grading and attendance:

Final Exam (March 17)	40%
First Exam (February 17)	30%
Take-home essay (February 10)	30%
	<u>100%</u>

I grade on a numerical basis. For the quarter grade, your grade will be determined as follows:

A= 90-100 B=82-89 C=72-81 D=60-71 F=0-59

Unless you have a valid excuse, make-up of exams and incompletes will not be granted.

Readings:

1. Michael Meyer, Susan Deeds and William Sherman, The Course of Mexican History.
2. Bernal Diaz del Castillo, The Conquest of New Spain.
3. Miguel Leon-Portilla, The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico.
4. William Taylor, Drinking, Homicide and Rebellion in Colonial Mexican Villages.

I. The Mesoamerican Civilizations

Week 1 (January 4 & 6): Early Mesoamerican History: The Olmecs.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds and Sherman, Chapter 1.

Week 2 (January 11 & 13): Classical Civilizations: The Maya and Teotihuacan.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds and Sherman, Chapters 2 & 3.

Week 3 (January 18 & 20): Post-Classical Civilizations: The Mexicas (Aztecs).

Readings: Meyer, Deeds, and Sherman, Chapters 4 & 5.

Week 4 (January 25 & 27): The Conquest of Mesoamerica.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds and Sherman, Chapters 6-8; **Del Castillo, (entire book); Leon-Portilla (entire book).**

II. The Making of New Spain, 1521-1700

Week 5 (February 1 & 3): The Consolidation of the Conquest.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds and Sherman, Chapter 9.

February 3: Distribution of Take-home exams.

Week 6 (February 8 & 10): The "De-Indianization" of Mexico.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds, and Sherman, Chapters 12-13; Taylor, Drinking, Homicide, and Rebellion (entire book).

February 10: Take-home exams due

Week 7 (February 15 & 17): Colonial Society: Race, Class and Gender.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds, and Sherman, Chapters 10 & 11.

February 17: Mid-term exam

III. From the Bourbons to Early National Period, 1700-1848.

Week 8 (February 22 & 24): The Bourbon Reforms and Late Colonial Society.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds, and Sherman, Chapters 14 & 15.

Week 9 (March 1 & 3): The Significance of Mexican Independence, 1810-1821.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds, and Sherman, Chapters 16-17.

Week 10 (March 8 & 10): The Difficulties of Nation-Building, 1821-1848.

Readings: Meyer, Deeds, and Sherman, Chapters 18-21.

Final: Thursday (March 17), 11:45-2.