



History 521.01E

Seminar in Latin American History

“Revolutionary Mexico”

Instructor: Dr. Mark Moreno

Class Meets: Saturday, 9:20 a.m.--noon

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences, #118

Office Hours: M, 5:30 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course covers selected seminal works in the historiography of the Mexican Revolution, which took place in stages, starting from 1910, when civil war broke out, and ending in 1940. The revolutionary process involved smaller scales of rebellion and violence; but also enormous changes in society, education, culture, and perceptions of race and national identity. The Revolutionary governments of Mexico also brought forth dramatic economic change, and a forward--some would say obsessive--push toward modernity. By classic scholarly definitions, it was, in fact, a revolution. But to most Mexicans today, the early promise of the Revolution and post-World War II economic prosperity gave way to institutionalized corruption and endemic social and economic inequality. We will exam negative and positive aspects of the Revolution, and critically examine major works which shaped and influenced other scholarly interpretations of it. The course is rooted in earlier important works on the subject, and includes newer interpretations, regional studies, and postmodernist influences on Revolutionary historiography.

Required Texts

Becker, Marjorie, *Setting the Virgin on Fire: Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán Peasants, and the Redemption of the Mexican Revolution* (University of California Press), ISBN 978-0-8165-1676

Hart, John Mason, *Empire and Revolution: The Americans in Mexico Since the Civil War* (University of California Press), ISBN 0-520-22324-1

Knight, Alan, *The Mexican Revolution, Vol. 1: Porfirians, Liberals, and Peasants* (University of Nebraska Press), ISBN 978-0-8032-7771

Knight, Alan, *The Mexican Revolution, Vo. 2: Counter-revolution and Reconstruction* (University of Nebraska Press), ISBN 978-0-8032-7771-7

Meyer, Jean, *The Cristero Rebellion: The Mexican People Between Church and State, 1926-1929* (Cambridge University Press), ISBN 978-0-521-10205-6

Mary Kay Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution: Teachers, Peasants, and Schools in Mexico, 1930-1940* (The University of Arizona Press), ISBN 978-0-8165-1676-6

Womack, John Jr., *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution* (Random House), ISBN 978-0-307-80332-0

Young, Elliot, *Catarino Garza's Revolution on the Texas-Mexico Border* (Duke University Press), ISBN 978-0822-3332-03

Recommended

Gonzales, Michael J., *The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940* (University of New Mexico Press), ISBN 978-0-8263-2780-2

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this semester, students will understand important currents of scholarship pertaining to the Mexican Revolution, including aspects of class, gender, economics, and religion. They will have the ability to formulate their own historiographical analyses on these themes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation and attendance: As a graduate class, regular attendance and participation is expected. Students are expected to formulate individual analyses, to identify arguments and divergences in the literature presented, be prepared to write book reviews, and also to present findings to the seminar group. All work in class is expected to be turned in on time. As a graduate class, the instructor expects that students will not spend their time surfing the Web or engaged in social media, and disengagement can reflect negatively on the final grade.

Plagiarism: Taking work directly from other sources and presenting it as your own is a serious academic offense, and it is not expected that graduate student will attempt such actions. Papers may be periodically checked for plagiarism through Turnitin (instructions to follow).

Assignments: Each student will write three book reviews (three to four pages) based on our reading list. They will present their findings in class. Presenters will be designated on a revolving basis. Via email, students who are not reviewing and presenting will submit brief summaries on works to be discussed, or sections of them, along with summaries on past reviews of the work (two to three pages): They will also prepare at least one question based on the author's argument and presentation of evidence, all by noon on Monday before class. For longer works that take a few weeks to review and discuss, weekly assignments may be divided into two parts. Book reviews should be in hard copy form, turned in after the student presentation. **Semester Projects:** Students will write a historiographical essay of at least twenty pages, focusing on Revolutionary

Mexico or another theme involving twentieth-century Mexico (with approval). There is a final in-class assignment during Finals week that will count toward participation points.

Examples of published book reviews on past and present works of scholarship on Latin America can be found in the *The American Historical Review*; the *Latin American Research Review*; *Hispanic American Historical Review*; *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*; and, if you read Spanish, *Historia Mexicana*, among other journals. You are encouraged also to review academic articles in any of those journals for ideas on your historiographical essay.

Points system:

Attendance and Participation = 100 points

Book Reviews/Presentations = 100 points

Weekly Summaries and Questions = 100 points

Historiographical Essay = 200 points

Total = 500

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, and NAVIGATION

Required:

High-speed Internet access, a word processor, and a printer for some assignments

For eCollege, Windows operating systems (XP or newer) is suggested. Effective browsers are Internet Explorer 6.0, Google Chrome (up-to-date) 7.0 or 8.0, Mac OS X, Safari 2.0 or Firefox 3.0. If for some reason the instructor should require a chat session through eCollege in lieu of class, only Internet Explorer will work with that particular technology.

This course is facilitated online with eCollege, the online system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. You can get started at <https://tamucommerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to login to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

All relevant course materials – including the syllabus – can be found in eCollege.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor

Email through the online learning system is the best way to contact the instructor outside of class and office hours. Students should expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays.

Writing and Library Support

Writing well and correctly is monumentally important in the field of history, especially for entrance into a PhD program, and for future publications and employment. If you believe you

need assistance, students are encouraged to make appointments with the University Writing Center:

<http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/http/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

Chat Support: Click on “Live Support” on the tool bar on our course homepage to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: Call 1-866-656-5511 (Toll free) to speak with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: Send to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to request support with from an eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the “Help” button on the homepage toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege functions

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Electronic Devices: No hand-held electronic gadgets -- smartphones or otherwise -- are allowed to be in use during class time, unless they are for purposes of recording discussions.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Statement of Non-Discrimination:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin,

disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Student Conduct: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See the “Code of Student Conduct” in the *Student Guide Handbook*.)

Class Seminar Schedule

Week 1

- Introduction: The Standard Narrative
- Book Reviews/Presentations assigned

Week 2

- Mini-Lecture
- Email Comments due Monday
- Discuss *The Mexican Revolution, Vol. 1*

Week 3

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *The Mexican Revolution, Vol. 1*.
- Book Reviews Due

Week 4

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *The Mexican Revolution, Vol. 2*

Week 5

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *The Mexican Revolution, Vol. 2*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 6

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Empire and Revolution*

Week 7

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Empire and Revolution*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 8

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution*

Week 9

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 10

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *The Cristero Rebellion*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 11

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Cultural Politics in Revolution*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 12

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Catarino Garza's Revolution in Texas*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 13

- Email Comments Due Monday
- Discuss *Setting the Virgin on Fire*
- Book Reviews Due

Week 13

Thanksgiving Week – Class Monday

Week 14

- Historiography Paper Due and Discussion

Week 15

- Final Assignment, In-Class