



History 265.01E

Conflict and Revolution in Mexico

Instructor: Dr. Mark Moreno

Class Meets: MWF, 1 p.m.-1:50 p.m., SS309

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Course Catalog: *Encounters between human populations who perceive the differences that separate them to be greater than the similarities that unite them have punctuated world history. Such encounters have frequently led to war, imperialism and colonization, and less frequently to cultural imitation and syncretism. The modern world is the product of these encounters as much as, if not more than, it is the product of the development of distinct regional cultures, such as*

Western Civilization. This course explores the nature of such encounters and the consequences they had for cultural and political developments. Topics such as the slave trade, European colonization, and globalization may receive special attention. Note: This course satisfies a Humanities requirement for University Studies.

This class: When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, the government was utterly broke, although leaders had high expectations for prosperity and local autonomy in a new Republic. Indigenous peoples were wary of the incoming government and jealous of their own independence. The inability to pay soldiers and military officers often led to local uprisings. The fight over Mexican nationhood took place not only on battlefield but in the press, and conditions led to politics at the extremes—some wanted a modern democratic republic, others a monarchy or dictatorship. The loss of more than half of Mexico’s territory to the U.S. in 1848 only caused divisions to harden. There was civil war, a European invasion, and more bloodshed before the nation experienced political and economic stability in the late 19th century. The troubles were not over. Authoritarian government, cronyism, severe economic inequalities, and continued abuse of Mexico’s Indian populations led to the Mexican Revolution of 1910, in which 1 million people died from violence and disease over 10 years. The Revolution brought in a new political order and relative peace. But peace came at a price, as the nation was ruled in a one-party system that brought a measure of economic prosperity and national pride, but also dealt brutally with dissent and protest. Mexico is a product of a much different historical process than the U.S. Its history is colored in violence because of the enormous diversity of its people; limited political options; economic dependency; foreign intervention, and strong sense of local autonomy among regions. For much of its history, there was no cohesive sense of nation. Violence changed that.

Required Texts

Gonzales, Michael J., *The Mexican Revolution: 1910-1941* (University of New Mexico Press, 2002), ISBN 9780826327802

Henderson, Timothy J., *A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and Its War with the U.S.* (Hill and Wang, 2008), ISBN 9780809049677

Poniatowska, Elena, *Massacre in Mexico* (University of Missouri, 1991), ISBN 9780826208170

Mark Wasserman, ed., *Mexican Revolution: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2012), ISBN 9780312535049

Additional Materials will be posted electronically or distributed to students.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should competently meet the following learning outcome:

- 1.) Students will recognize historical patterns pertaining to violence and political instability in Mexico, and will also recognize internal demographics and class systems that determined those conditions, from independence through the post-revolutionary era (1821-1968).
- 2.) (Global Course SLO): Students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation and attendance: Regular attendance is expected, as well as regular questions and comments from students. Ten points will be deducted for every three unexcused absences. Other lectures and film/video presentations will relate to class readings. Class time is meant for both lecture and discussion, so participation is important whether class involves interaction or film/video presentations. Class time is not nap time, and the instructor reserves the right to dismiss disengaged students for the day. **Use of cell phones during class is prohibited.**

Plagiarism: Taking work directly from other sources and presenting it as your own is a serious academic offense, and will automatically result in a “0” grade for your paper, and possibly for the class. In addition, students will need to meet with the instructor for explanation and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Modern (or postmodern) technology has made detection of plagiarism easier than ever before, and faculty members in most cases have adopted a “zero tolerance” policy for such actions. All work produced for this class must come directly from History 265.01E students, and be specific to History 265.01E for the Spring 2017 semester.

Exams: Two Blue Book exams – a midterm and a final – will be assigned in this class. Students will answer two out of three questions in standard essay form and in longhand.

Discussions: Students will participate in five discussions based on primary sources and academic works. Students are also expected to participate with questions and comments during lectures and discussion sessions for maximum grade points.

Semester Project

Students will produce a research paper of at least 8-10 pages, focusing on any aspect of modern Mexico, although some topics, such as the current drug war dating from the 1990s, are at this point rather non-historical and not permitted as subject matter. Paper topics will be pre-approved. Your sources should be based on historical monographs, academic articles, and primary sources. Guidelines for the paper will be discussed within the first month of class.

Grading

Attendance, Participation = 100 points

Discussions = 100

Exams = 200 points total

Semester Project = 200 points total

Total = 600 points possible

Percentages and grades:

90-100% = A range

80-90% = B range

70-80% = C range

60-70 = D range

Below 60% = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, and NAVIGATION

Required:

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

Updated versions of Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, or other compatible browsers

This course is facilitated online with eCollege, the online system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. You can get started at <https://tamuccommerce.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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor

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

Writing and Library Support

For assistance with writing, 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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Electronic Devices: No smartphones are to be active during class time. The use of laptops and electronic notebooks will be prohibited for any student not using them for note-taking or other activities directly related to class. The instructor reserves the right to revoke such privileges, and to dismiss disengages students from class. It is important to be focused on the subject matter during lectures, discussions, and film/video presentations.

Plagiarism: As stated above, it is easy to detect and provokes the ire of faculty members like almost nothing else, and it is against University policy.

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.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have

been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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 *Student Guide Handbook*.)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule is subject to slight revision during the semester. Suggested readings for the week, including academic articles not listed in the syllabus, will be announced in class.

Class lecture schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- Mexican Independence and the Early Republic

Week 2

- The Age of Santa Ana and “pronouncements”

Week 3

- Primary Sources Discussion
- Military uprisings, foreign threats, economics

Week 4

- The question of Texas
- The U.S.-Mexican War

Week 5

- Primary Sources Discussion

- Santa Anna Takes Power Again
- The Mexican Reform

Week 6

- The War of the Reform
- Benito Juárez and the French Intervention

Week 7

- **Midterm**
- The Restored Republic

Week 8

- The Era of Porfirio Díaz

Week 9

- Primary Sources Discussion
- Prelude to Revolution

Week 10

- The Mexican Revolution

Week 11

- Primary Sources Discussion
- The Revolutionary 1920s

Week 12

- The Revolution in the 1920s

Week 13

- Semester Papers Due
- The Institutional Revolutionary Party

Week 14

- Discussion: The Tlatelolco Massacre

Week 15: **Final Exam**