

Government and Politics of Mexico
M/W/F 10:10-11:00 Draper 329

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Course Purpose and Overview

This course serves as a survey of Mexican politics in the 20th Century. It focuses heavily on political actors and institutions. Events in Mexico did not occur in a vacuum and we will periodically examine Mexican politics in a comparative context. We will be especially interested in how Mexican politics has changed in recent years with the historic 2000 elections and the political turmoil and key institutional reforms that preceded them. We will also attempt an early evaluation of the transition to democracy and the Fox administration. Because relations between the United States and Mexico are critical for both countries, we will spend considerable time on the complexities of this pivotal relationship. (Do note that no prior knowledge of Mexico or Latin America is assumed.)

Course Objectives

To understand contemporary political arrangements in Mexico and how these political regimes have evolved and changed.

To understand and analyze U.S.-Mexican relations and the impact of the domestic politics in both countries on this relationship.

To further develop the skills of close, analytical reading; succinct, argumentative writing; research and analysis; and thoughtful, fruitful discussion.

Textbooks

The following books are available in the bookstore:

Camp, Roderic AI. Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation, **Fifth Edition**. Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN 0-19-531332-1

Dominguez, Jorge I. and Rafael Fernandez de Castro. The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict. 2nd Edition. Routledge, 2009. ISBN 0-415-99219-2

Azuela, Mariano. The Underdogs (with Related Texts). Translation and introduction by Gustavo Pellón. Hackett Publishing Company, 2006. ISBN: 978-87220-834-6

In addition, you must purchase the case study "Battling for the Rule of Law in Mexico City: Crime, Corruption, and Criminal Justice." The case is available for purchase online at <http://www.ksgcase.harvard.edu/casetitle.asp?caseNo=1694.0> or by searching

by title (above) or case number (1694) at the homepage:

<http://www.ksgcase.harvard.edu/>

Readings listed as “on reserve” are found in the assignments section of the course blackboard site.

Grades

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

Participation and Weekly Assignments: 25%

Mid-Term Examination: 25%

Essay: 20%

Final Examination: 30%

Class Participation and Weekly Assignments: One session each week you will be assigned to write a one-page reflection on an assigned text. These papers will serve as the basis for our discussion. There will be twelve opportunities to write these - you must turn in ten of these during the course of the semester (but only ten – I will not drop a low grade). Prompts will be posted to blackboard one class period before they are due.

I expect full attendance and participation. You are expected to come to class prepared for a detailed discussion of the daily reading. While your written work will constitute the bulk of this grade, unsatisfactory attendance or performance in class discussion *will significantly lower your grade*. By University policy, you must attend 75% of class sessions to receive credit for this course.

It is important that you keep up with current events related to Mexico. A subscription to the *New York Times* is highly recommended. Both the *Times* and the *Washington Post* are available online (free). We will discuss current events weekly (if not more often) and seek to apply our knowledge of the region to the events that unfold over the course of the semester.

Mid-term Exam: The exam will have multiple choice, short answer, and essay components and will be on **Monday, October 5th**.

Essay: In conjunction with our case study of corruption in Mexico City, you will write a 4-6 page essay on the topic and lead our class discussion of the issue. I will assign specific students to specific questions. Half the essays will be due on **Wednesday November 4th**; the other half will be due on **Friday, November 6th**.

Final Exam: Like the mid-term, the final will have multiple choice, short answer, and essay components. It will focus exclusively on material discussed after the mid-term. Our final exam is scheduled for **Thursday, December 10th at 2:00pm**

Additional Requirements for Honors and Graduate Students

Reading and Discussion: Honors and Graduate Students will meet, at a mutually-agreeable time and place, to discuss two additional sets of reading. First, we will read and discuss together Yemile Mizrahi's book, *From Martyrdom to Power: The Partido Acción Nacional in Mexico* (U of Notre Dame Press, 2003). You will need to write a short (3-5 page) review of the book in preparation for this discussion. We will have this meeting and discussion during the time period when we are discussing political parties. We will also meet and discuss a set of essays which I will distribute on voting behavior in Mexico from the 2006 election. This meeting will come later in the semester.

Take Home Final Exam: Honors and Graduate students will have a take-home final exam that replaces the in-class final other students are taking. There will be 2-4 questions which you will answer in 12-15 total pages. The exam is due: **Friday, December 11th at 12:00 Noon in my mailbox in the Political Science Department Office (Burleson 300).**

Policies

Honor Code: I expect you to abide by the Baylor Honor Code (<http://www.baylor.edu/honorcode/>). Any violation of the honor code (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) in any form on any assignment is a serious offense and constitutes grounds for failure in the course. **All violations will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.**

Assignment Formatting and Submission:

All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with 12-point font, and 1-inch margins on all sides. You must hand in hard copies of assignments at the end of the class period at which they are due. **I will NOT accept any e-mailed papers.** However, you must also submit your papers electronically through Blackboard's Turnitin.com service by the beginning of class time. You will not receive credit for the assignment until I have received both the online and hard copy. Plan ahead so that you have time to print out your work before class. This applies to homework as well as larger papers.

Turnitin.com Statement (required by General Council's Office):

"Students agree that by taking this course, all required papers, exams, class projects or other assignments submitted for credit may be submitted to turnitin.com or similar third parties to review and evaluate for originality and intellectual integrity. A description of the services, terms and conditions of use, and privacy policy of turnitin.com is available on its web site: <http://www.turnitin.com>. Students understand all work submitted to turnitin.com will be added to its database of papers. Students further understand that if the results of such a review support an allegation of academic dishonesty, the course work in question as well as any supporting materials may be submitted to the Honor Council for investigation and further action."

Late Work: Unless prior arrangements have been made, I accept late work with a penalty of one letter grade per day. Any assignment turned after papers have been collected constitutes a late paper.

Class Schedule and Assignments

Week One

(M) 8-24 – Intro and Overview

(W) 8-26 – Mexico in Comparative Perspective
Camp, Chapter 1.

(F) 8-28 – Political History
Camp, Chapter 2

Week Two

(M) 8-31 The Mexican Revolution (**W.A. 1**)
On reserve, Hellman.

(W) 9-2 – The Revolution
Azuela, part one

(F) 9-4 – The Revolution
Azuela, parts two and three

Week Three

(M) 9-7 – The Revolution (**W.A. 2**)
Azuela, concluding discussion

(W) 9-9 – Consolidation of the PRI
On Reserve, Skidmore and Smith

(F) 9-11– Democracy in Comparative Perspective
On Reserve, Mainwaring

Week Four

(M) 9-14 – Political Culture
Camp, chapter 3

(W) 9-16– Political Culture, continued (**WA 3**)
Camp, chapter 3

(F) 9-18 — Political Variables
Camp, chapter 4

Week Five

(M) 9-21 – Religion and Politics
Camp, chapter 4 (continued)
Contreras, “The Evangelical Challenge” (On Reserve)

(W) 9-23 – Political Leadership (**WA 4**)
Camp, chapter 5

(F) 9-25 – Technocrats in Comparative Perspective
On reserve, TBA

Week Six

(M) 9-28 – Interest groups and the State
Camp, chapter 6

(W) 9-30 – The Media
Levy and Bruhn, On Reserve

(F) 10-2 – Zapatistas (**WA 5**)
On reserve, Stavenhagen

Week Seven

(M) 10-5 – **Mid-Term Exam**

(W) 10-7 – **Lilly Fellows Conference, No class**

(F) 10-9 – Political Parties: PAN
On Reserve, Chand

Week Eight

(M) 10-12 – Political Parties: PAN, continued (**WA 6**)
On reserve, Chand

(W) 10-14 – Political Parties: PRD
On reserve, Bruhn

(F) 10-16 – **Fall Break, No Class**

Week Nine

(M) 10-19 – PRD, continued (**WA 7**)
Bruhn; additional reading TBA

(W) 10-21 Political Institutions
Camp, Chapter 7

(F) 10-23 – The Legislature
On reserve, Casar

Week Ten

(M) 10-26 – – The Legislature (**WA 8**)
On reserve, Nacif

(W) 10-28 – Electoral Reforms
Camp, chapter 8

(F) 10-30 – 2000 Elections
On reserve, Klessner

Week Eleven

(M) 11-2 –. Corruption
On reserve, TBA

(W) 11-4 – Case Study: Judicial Corruption in Mexico City
ESSAY DUE

(F) 11-6 – Case Study, Continued -- **ESSAY DUE**

Week Twelve

(M) 11-9 – History of U.S.-Mexican Relations
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro: Intro, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

(W) 11-11 – Security Issues
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro, Chapter 3
Hinojosa, Conclusions (On Reserve)

(F) 11-13 – The Context of Decision-Making (**WA 9**)
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro, Chapter 4 and 5

Week Thirteen

(M) 11-16 -- Content and Conduct of Foreign Policy
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro, Chapter 6

(W) 11-18-- Border Issues (**WA 10**)
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro, Chapter 7

(F) 11-20 – Bilateral Relations in the 21st Century
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro, Chapter 8

Week Fourteen

(M) 11-23 – Contemporary Bilateral Relations, continued (**WA 11**)
Domínguez and Fernández de Castro, Chapter 8
Contreras, Remittances (On Reserve)

(W) 11-25 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

(F) 11-27 – **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week Fifteen

(M) 11-30 – Mexico's Challenges: Governance (**WA 12**)
M. Delal Baer, "Mexico at an Impasse" (On Reserve)
Pastor and Wise, "The Lost Sexenio" (On Reserve)

(W) 12-2 – Political Participation

Luis Rubio and Jeffrey Davidow, “Mexico’s Disputed Election” (On Reserve)

Klessner, “Who Participates” (On Reserve)

(F) 12-4 – Violence

“Mexico’s New War” (On Reserve)

Week Sixteen

(M) 12-7 – Mexico’s Remaining Challenges

Levy and Bruhn, Conclusions

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 10th at 2:00pm