



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall, 2023	Instructor Name:	Lisa Solomon
Course Title & #:	HIST 132: History of Mexico	Email:	lisa.solomon@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10936		
Classroom:	412	Office #:	Room 409
Class Dates:	Aug. 15 – Dec. 7, 2023	Student Hours:*	MW 1:30pm – 2:30pm T 11:30am – 12:45pm R 11:30am - 1:00pm
Class Days:	TR	Office Phone #:	760-355-6453
Class Times:	11:20am – 12:45am		
Units:	3	Class Format:	Face to face (on campus)

I am available for meetings with you beyond class and student hours. However, because of other obligations, please contact me to set up an appointment. Contact me before or after class, by email, or by voice mail.

* I will be in my office *and* on Zoom. Zoom links will be on Canvas.

I acknowledge that the land I'm occupying is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Paipai, Kumeyaay, Tipai, Kiliwa, Akwa'ala, and Cocopah people.

I recognize the impact of historical trauma and dispossession and ongoing systemic inequities. I acknowledge the relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations continue to maintain with this land.

Through this Acknowledgement, I celebrate their resilience and strength then and now, and express my ongoing commitment to dismantle silenced histories based on colonization in our sessions and in our communities.

Welcome!

I am glad you are taking this class, and I promise to make it as engaging and relevant as possible. Over the coming weeks, we will exchange ideas and experiences, learn together (yes, I learn from you) and, ideally, see ourselves and our communities in new ways.

Course Description

This course looks at Mexican history from its native origins to the present. The class will explore the Native Mexican cultures of Mesoamerica; the period of colonization; the struggle for independence and nationhood in the 19th century; the interaction and conflicts with the United States in the early to mid-19th century; the Mexican Revolution; the era of population, economic and political crises during the 20th century; and a national rebirth in the 21st century.



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This course does require a significant amount of reading and writing. Students are required to write 10 to 12 pages.

While this is current description in the Course Outline of Record, I hope to present more information throughout this class. What I cannot offer in class will be added to Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to: (1) identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film; (2) describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event; and (3) explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to: Describe a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, moments and events of Modern Mexico; articulate the roles played by various political and social groups; be able to define some of the recurring themes during this time in Mexico's history.

See my comments under "Course Description". This section is required by the College, and these noted themes will be key factors in the tests and assignments.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required: *Mexico-The Essentials*. William H. Beezley and Colin M. MacLachlan. ISBN 978-0-19-538. This book is available for purchase or rent at the IVC Bookstore.

Recommended: Any college level dictionary.

Additional readings, articles or videos will be posted to Canvas, as deemed relevant.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Assignments and exams are prepared to help you share what you are learning as well as your views/opinions on the material. While I will seldom ask for exact dates, it will help to remember the timeline of events, as well as people and places. Ideally, this work will also help you look at the material with a critical eye.

Assignments may be based on a specific section of the text, on a part of a video, or a class lecture. The content is the important element. Students will be able to submit the assignments in a variety of formats.

The in-class essays are topic-specific, and may not happen on the dates noted later in this syllabus. These are opportunities for you to express ideas and opinions on the topic/time period. The points for these are not yet determined and will be added to the Canvas gradebook. They can help you learn about the content as well as possibly raise your grade. *Because these are based on specific content presented in class, they cannot be made up in the event of an absence.*



Exams will pull questions from all sources of material presented to the class. That includes PowerPoints and material posted to the Canvas page. Because multiple-choice/true-false exams tend to work *against* the student, I do not use them. More detail on the exams will be presented in class.

Opportunities for submitting drafts and revisions, and exam re-dos (except for the Final) will be available.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There will be no 0s in this class-no zeros! Radical!

Work that is not completed/submitted will simply show as a blank in the Canvas gradebook.

Comments, questions, and discussions are encouraged. Because not everyone is comfortable speaking in class, and because some students need more time to process information, there are NO discussion points. Points will be earned only on the assignments, exams, and in-class essays.

Grading: The course maximum is 700 points, based on the following:

Assignments (two @ 75 points each)	150 points
In-class writing (two @ 50 points each)	100 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Final exam	300 points

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 596.5-700	B = 491.5-596	C = 386.5-491
D = 280.5-386	F = 280	

Do NOT go by the percentages shown on Canvas!

Starting with a minimum grade makes it easier for you, my student, to earn points and pass the class. That doesn't mean that passing is automatic; work still needs to be done. It does mean that, starting at 40%, the point spread between letter grades is equal.

Letter grades will not be included on tests and assignments. They are only used for the final course grade.

Course Policies

Attendance: A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class (without notifying me in advance) will be dropped by me as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class.

Attendance is strongly encouraged, especially since History courses usually take a chronological approach. Therefore, absences can leave gaps that cannot easily be filled.

Academic Honesty: IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking,



writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

I learned from experience that cheating or copying work can make it harder to pass the class. While pressures of life outside of school, and the desire to pass, may push a student to copy or cheat, you will do much better taking some extra time and doing the work yourself.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be required to retake the exam or redo the assignment. A student who repeatedly cheats is violating campus policy and faces a meeting with the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file or proceed with a suspension.

More information on this can be found on Canvas.

Food and drink: Because of the distractions caused when students eat in class, please consume food before or after class. Beverages in secure containers are acceptable (I will have my coffee and/or water with me 😊). Please clean up any spills.

Being adults: During class meetings, please treat each other with respect and patience. Respect your classmates' opinions, even if they differ from yours. Comments that are aimed at another student and are deliberately meant to be demeaning (racist, sexist, religious bias, etc.) will not be accepted. Anyone who threatens another student or myself will be escorted from the class, and I will schedule a meeting with that student before they are allowed to return.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****

Please try to do the reading before class. NOTE: Some of the video content is graphic and may be difficult for any student dealing with anxiety or PTSD.

Please let me know if this applies to you, and take the necessary steps to take care of yourself. The topics noted are the main ones and not meant to exclude any group.

Date	Topic/Assignment/Exam	Reading
Aug. 14	Intro to the class In-class essay	Preface
Aug. 16	Mexico	Chap. 1
Aug. 21	Native peoples	Pp. 105-6 (to the first full paragraph)



Date	Topic/Assignment/Exam	Reading
Aug. 23	Arrival of the Spanish	Pp. 17-8 (to "The Struggle...")
Aug. 28	Spanish colonization	
Aug. 30	Spanish rule	
Sep. 04	NO CLASS – Labor Day	
Sep. 06	Society and culture Assignment #1 on Canvas (due Sep. 9)	Pp. 43-57 (to "Rise..."), 88-94 (to "Independence..."), 127-31 (to "Revolution...")
Sep. 11 & 13	Independence	Pp. 18-20 (to "Politics...")
Sep. 18	Politics and society	Pp. 57-9 (to "The Virgin..."), 64-6 (to "Rebuilding..."), 117 ("The Publishing Industry")
Sep. 20	Texas	Pp. 20-21 (to "War!")
Sep. 25 & 27	War with US In-class essay on Sep. 27 Midterm questions on Canvas Sep. 27	Pp. 21-3 (to "Conservative...")
Oct. 02	Late 1800s	Pp. 23-7 (to "The Porfiriato..."), 66-72 (to "Revolutionary...")
Oct. 04	Midterm (taken in class)	
Oct. 09 & 11	Mexican Revolution	Pp. 28-30 (to "The Reconstructive..."), 96-8 (to "The Family..."), 108-11 (to "The Capital..."), 131-3 (to "Indigenous...")
Oct. 16 & 18	1920s and 1930s	Pp. 30-5 (to "World..."), 72-6 (to first full paragraph), 111-2 (to first full paragraph), 131-2 (to last paragraph), 147-8 (to "Drug..."), 166-71 (to "World...")
Oct. 23 & 25	1940s and 1950s	Pp. 35-8 (to second full paragraph), 76 (first full paragraph)-77 (to "Aleman's..."), 98-100



Date	Topic/Assignment/Exam	Reading
		(to second paragraph), 171-4 (to first full paragraph)
Oct. 30 & Nov. 01	1960s and 1970s In-class essay during this week Assignment #2 on Canvas Nov. 1 (due Nov. 4)	Pp. 38 (from second paragraph)-39 (to "Faltering..."), 78-9 (to "Academics..."), 101-2, 118-21 (to first full paragraph), 148 ("Drug Production..."), 151-3, 174 (second paragraph)-175 (to "Congress...")
Nov. 06 & 08	1980s	Pp. 39-40 (to "The Salinas..."), 79-81 (to "North..."), 121-2 (to "Environmental..."), 153-5 (to "The Mexican...")
Nov. 13 & 15	1990s	Pp. 81-7, 135-44, 155-7 (to "The Fox..."), 175-6
Nov. 20-24	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
Nov. 20	Final exam questions on Canvas (Part 1) Due on Canvas December 10	
Nov. 27	21 st century	Pp. 41-2, 60-3, 103-5 (to "The Aztec..."), 115, 122-4 (to "In a similar..."), 157-61 (to "The Zetas..."), Afterward
Nov. 29	Drugs, immigration, and terrorism Final exam questions on Canvas (Part 2)	Pp. 145 (Intro), 148-51 (to "Nixon..."), 161-65 (to "The Border"), 176-86
Dec. 04	Current status	
Dec. 06	Final exam (part 2 done in class)	