OBJECTIVES OF THE CLASS:
To examine the culture, politics, and economics of Mexico and Central America, past, present, and future. To study the Aztec empire and Maya kingdoms, the colonial empire of Spain, and the independent nations-states of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Major themes include the continuing Native American character of the region, the continuing influence of the colonial period, and the struggle for justice and nation building. Central to this class is the connections of Mexico and Central America to the United States.

CLASS QUESTION:
Between 1836 and 1945, the United States went from being a minor world power to becoming the world's greatest power. The rise of the United States to global power began in the Americas; and establishing and maintaining power and influence over American neighbors to the South would remain key to US economic, political, and military policy. Considering the actions of the United States that included expansion into Mexico, and continued on with the backing the "Contras" in Nicaragua in the 1980s, was the United States primarily acting with justification and with good intentions? Given the internal dynamics of Mexico and Central America, is it realistic to fault the United States for the problems of these nations?

Last Day of class: December 4
Test one: Oct 2
Test two: Nov 6
Class Research Essay: December 4
FINAL EXAM: December 9, 6:30 to 8:30

GRADING SYSTEM: Each of the above (test, essay, exam) is valued at 25%. Tests and the exam include a variety of question styles, but always include essay questions as well.

MATERIAL COVERED ON TESTS:
Test one will cover BOOK ONE and class lecture notes. Test two will cover BOOK TWO and lecture notes. BOOK THREE will be discussed in class and used for material in the Final Essay. [Note: all three books should be used to construct the final essay.]

REQUIRED READING:
1. A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and the War with the United States
2. A Short History of Guatemala
3. The Guatemalan Reader

ESSAY: THE ESSAY will be your analysis and summary of the class question.

ESSAY GUIDELINES:
The essay must be taken entirely from class lectures and the three required books. No exceptions.

☐ Word count for the essay should be 3,500 words
☐ Put Page numbers
☐ Add an essay title page with your name and class data.
☐ 12 font, Times New Roman
☐ MLA style of citation
☐ Websites will not be accepted as academic sources.

LATE ESSAYS WILL HAVE 5 POINTS DEDUCTED PER DAY

GRADING SCALE: A = 90 TO 100,  B = 80 TO 89,  C = 70 TO 79,  D = 60 TO 69
OFFICE: Pilcher Bldg 137  PHONE 770-423-6589

Regular Campus Email [not d2l] is the way to reach me, be sure to use the following email for a fast response: alebaron@kennesaw.edu

OFFICE HOURS: T TH 9:30 am to 11:30 am, but because of possible meetings and conflicts of schedule, appointments can be made throughout the week.

Academic Honesty:
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures