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 rest of the Americas.

CLASS QUESTION TO PONDER:
Between 1836 and 1959, 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 which began with 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?

Test one: 9-18 [m/choice and in-class essay]
Test two: 10-28 [m/choice and take home research essay]
Test three: 11-20 [m/choice and take home research essay]
FINAL EXAM: December 11, (6 pm to 8 pm) [m/choice and take home research essay]

GRADING SYSTEM: Each of the above is valued at 25%, for the total at 100%.

REQUIRED READING:


IN-CLASS AND TAKE HOME RESEARCH ESSAYS will focus on the two required books, and the Class Question.

ESSAY GUIDELINES for in-class and take home essays:

• The first class essay and the three take home essays will be graded at 50% of each exam.
The three take home research essays will be your analysis and summary of class themes augmented by outside research. GUIDELINES for the three take home essays:

- Word count should be 750 words, double-spaced.
- Create a title page with a title that relates to the thesis of your essay.
- Put page numbers.
- Size 12; Times New Roman.
- All citations should be end noted in a separate section.
- Use at least three outside books or academic articles.
- You may cite from the class-required book as additional source.

GRADING SCALE: A = 90 TO 100,  B = 80 TO 89,  C = 70 TO 79,  D = 60 TO 69
OFFICE: SO 4116 PHONE 470-578-6589

Be sure to use the following email for a fast response:
alebaron@kennesaw.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 10:00 am to Noon, but because of possible meetings and conflicts of schedule, appointments can be made throughout the week.

Attendance Policy
Role will be taken every class. You are not graded on attendance, but class lectures and materials may not be available from the professor because of missed classes.

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
ADA Compliance:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.