HIST 3366/-01
History of Mexico
And
Central America
Semester: Fall 2016
Location: Social Science 2023
Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 1700 to 1815

Instructor: Professor Alan LeBaron
Office: Social Science Bldg. room 2012
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3 to 4 pm or by appointment
Office Phone: 470 578 6589
Email address: alebaron@kennesaw.edu

[Course Communication] – The best method of reaching the professor of this class is by email to alebaron@kennesaw.edu Telephone calls for consultation can also be arranged by appointment on most days. For email communications take note of the passage below, and use only your student email for communication, with the subject line MEXICO CLASS.

Electronic Communications. The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

Course Description:
This class will examine the history, society, politics, and economics of Mexico and Central America from the time of the Olmec and the Maya, to the present. Thus, we will study the Mesoamerican Native American civilizations, the colonial empire of Spain, and the independent nations-states of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

Learning Objectives:
Students will gain a comprehensive overview of major themes including the strong Native American influence on much of the region, the continuing influence of the colonial legacy, and the struggle to build independent nations. Central to this class is the connections of Mexico and Central America to the rest of the Americas, and especially to the United States.

Required Reading:

Attendance Policy:
Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Role will be taken in order to better know each other and encourage discussion and dialog. Class attendance will not be graded but be aware that material
presented in class may not be available outside of class.

Electronic Devices Policy:
Note pads or lap tops or any other electronic devices need special permission from the professor. Students must have need of the devices, and must give the professor assurances that no email or other activities will take place during class other than real-time note taking.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

See below for reading schedule and the testing dates. The exams will cover the pages in the book listed below, and the class presentations by the professor. The final exam is comprehensive, and will cover major themes such as the Native American civilizations, the European invasion and conquest, and the structure of the Spanish colonial empire, the wars for Independence, the war with the United States, and the civil wars and conflicts within Mexico and Central America. Cuban and Guatemalan relations with the United States will be presented as case examples.

ESSAY
The essay will be your original topic taken from the textbook and the class material. Each topic will be discussed and approved by the professor.
- Word count should be 2500 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; which does not count as part of the 2500 words.
- Use one outside book or academic article for additional information, but the bulk of your essay should be based on the book and class notes.

CLASS QUESTION TO PONDER:
During the 19th and 20th centuries, 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 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?
Makeup Exams and Late Assignments:
As noted above, essays handed in late will receive 5-point deduction per day. This is not meant to punish students (we are all late sometimes) but to keep the grading fair for those who make the deadline.
Sometimes there are valid reasons, e.g. when the university closes for “inclement weather” (but not for a wedding for example).

The history department plans to schedule a make up day for missed exams

Grade Calculations
- Research Paper = 25 points
- First Quiz = 25 points
- Second Quiz = 25 points
- Final Exam = 25 points

Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A – 90 - 100
B - 80 - 89
C - 70 - 79
D - 60 - 69
F - 59 and below
I—Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

Academic Integrity Statement  Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct. Breaking the code will result in failing the class, and perhaps other university penalties.
Examples of Plagiarism Avoidance websites:
http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

ADA Compliance:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sss.

Contact information is as follows:
SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu
Primary number for Kennesaw campus: 470-578-2666
Primary number for Marietta campus: 678-915-7244

Course Schedule:
- 9-21: First quiz
- 10-5: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
- 10-19: Second quiz
- 11-16: Research Paper Due
Final Exam: Dec 7: 1800 to 2000

Tentative Schedule of Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One, Two</th>
<th>The Native American Aztec and the Maya</th>
<th>Pages 1 - 71</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week Three, Four,</td>
<td>The Spanish Invasion and/or Immigrants</td>
<td>Pages 73 - 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Five, Six</td>
<td>New Spain</td>
<td>Pages 113 - 167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Wars of Independence</td>
<td>Pages 220 - 229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8, 9</td>
<td>Mexico and the United States</td>
<td>Pages 239 - 267</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10, 11,</td>
<td>Porfirio Diaz</td>
<td>Pages 321 - 356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 - 15</td>
<td>Revolution and Imperialism in Mexico and Central America</td>
<td>Case examples from presentation and media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>