OBJECTIVES OF THE CLASS
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. Major themes include 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.

EXAM ONE: Feb. 26
EXAM TWO: April 2
ESSAY DUE: April 23
FINAL EXAM: April 30, 6:pm to 8:pm
LAST REGULAR CLASS DAY: April 29.
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY: March 3

GRADING SYSTEM: Grades are obtained from the three exams and one essay. Each of the exams is valued at 30 % and the essay is valued at 10%.

MATERIAL COVERED ON TESTS:
We will cover, and students should read, the entire textbook on Mexican History. Also, I will present during the class additional material to cover specific concepts and data that may not be covered in the book.
The first exam will cover chapters 1 through 11, as well as the additional material presented in class. Topics include the Native American civilizations, the European invasion and conquest, and the structure of the Spanish colonial empire.
The 2nd exam will cover the wars for Independence, the war with the United States, and the civil wars and conflicts within Mexico and Central America. Read chapters 12 – 25.
The final exam will be comprehensive and cover the entire class. In addition to the comprehensive final questions, the exam will cover chapters 26 to 34. 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 2000 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 2000 words.
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?

BOOKS
The Course of Mexican History  8th ed. (Meyer, Sherman, and Deeds)

ATTENDANCE:  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.

GRADING SCALE: A = 91 TO 100,  B = 81 TO 90,  C = 71 TO 80,  D = 61 TO 70
OFFICE: Pilcher Bldg Office 137    PHONE 470-578-6589

Email is the best way to reach me: alebaron@kennesaw.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 10 am to 12:30 pm, and other days by appointment. Also, I am usually available after class for short meetings. Make an appointment in advance if you can, but you are welcome and encouraged to talk with me any time that we can find.

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. 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).