

INTA 3020: Contemporary Mexico Summer 2007

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Dion, mdion@gatech.edu

Course description and objectives

This course will examine the socio-economic and political development of Mexico in the 20th Century. The course will also explore Mexican identity and culture. Students will combine class readings with site visits to museums, businesses, and social organizations around Monterrey, Mexico. At the end of this course, students will have a basic understanding of Mexico's recent social, economic and political history and demonstrate an ability to accurately interpret the local and cultural meaning of social and political events.

Course readings

Readings will include the following two books and additional articles to be distributed in class as a coursepack to be photocopied by students.

- *Mexican Politics* by Roderic Camp
- *No Happy Ending* by Paco Ignacio Taibo II

Course requirements and evaluation

Student performance in the course will be evaluated on the basis of several written assignments, two exams, and active participation in class and in site visits outside of class.

Group weblog assignments (8% of final grade each, 32% of total):

The class will produce a weblog about Mexico during the summer program. Students in the class will be divided into five groups. Groups will have the opportunity during class Friday to plan their article for the coming week. The articles should discuss a topic or issue of import to Mexico, and may reflect upon course material or site visits. The articles should fall under one of the following five categories and no category can be repeated by each group more than once: politics, economics, history, culture/sports, or local (Monterrey).

Each group will be required to post one article (500 words maximum, with at least two links to web-based articles or content) per week, for a total of four articles. Original photos may be posted with articles. All articles must be posted by 11:00 p.m. the due date indicated below. The entire group will receive the same grade for the article and late articles will be penalized 10%. Articles submitted more than 24 hours late will not receive credit.

Group 1 due dates: June 3, June 8, June 14, and June 22

Group 2 due dates: June 4, June 10, June 18, and June 24

Group 3 due dates: June 5, June 11, June 19, and June 25

Group 4 due dates: June 6, June 12, June 20, and June 26

Group 5 due dates: June 7, June 13, June 21, and June 27

Individual weblog assignments (5% of final grade each, 15% total):

During the summer semester, students are expected to post three shorter articles or photo essays to the class weblog on a topic of their own choosing. These posts can either be in the form of a

short essay (150-200 words, with at least one web-based link) or a photo essay (three original photos with captions describing each photo and how they are related).

During the first class, students will sign up for the day of their posts. Posts will be due by 11:00 p.m. and late posts will be penalized 10%. No late posts will be accepted after 24 hours.

In-class news or current event presentation (5% of final grade):

Each week, one or two students from each group will give a short (5 minute) presentation to the class on a news item or topic that they would like to suggest for a group weblog article that week. The presentation can be informal but should include mention of why the news or article is of interest and how the group could approach writing a short article on the news or topic.

Analytical essay on No Happy Ending by Paco Ignacio Taibo II (10% of final grade):

Students will be expected to write a short analytical essay in response to *No Happy Ending*. The paper should identify one important theme or thread in the novel (e.g., crime, corruption, attitudes toward politicians, etc.) and discuss examples from the book of how the author develops or illustrates this theme. The paper should *not* be a simple summary of the plot.

Attendance and participation (8% of final grade):

This class is governed by the attendance rules of Tec de Monterrey. As such, students are expected attend class regularly and arrive on time. Students are also expected to show respect for one another during class discussions. These requirements also apply to required class activities scheduled outside of class time. Students are always expected to represent Georgia Tech and Tec de Monterrey in a professional manner.

Mid-term in-class exam (15% of final grade) and final in-class exam (15% of final grade):

Students will complete two in-class written exams over course material. Students who have not missed any classes and have completed all other assignments on time may be exempted from parts of the final exam.

Topical Outline

The Mexican Political System

- Origins of the Mexican political system
- Characteristics of the Mexican political system: presidentialism, state party, and corporativism.
- Political power and federalism.
- The political system and the Opposition.
- Crisis in the Mexican political system in 1988: Democratic transition.

The Economy

- General overview of Mexico's economic development in the 20th century.
- Crisis and economic reform: the eighties
- Social and economic impact of adjustment and economic reform.
- Challenges for the Mexican economy

Income and Population

- Demographics and population development.
- Wealth, poverty and Income distribution
- Perspectives for social development in Mexico
- Emigration

Culture and Society

- Mexico at the movies and in music and art

Tuesday, 5/29/2007

Introduction to course and each other. Explanation of syllabus. Introduction to weblogs and course requirements. Sign up for groups, presentation dates, and individual post dates.

Wednesday, 5/30/2007

The conquest, colonialism, 19th century politics, and the Mexican Revolution

- Roderic Camp. *Politics in Mexico*. Pp. 25-47.
- Edwin Williamson, Excerpts from Chapter 10, "Mexico: Revolution and Stability." In *The Penguin History of Latin America*, pp. 378-397.

Thursday, 5/31/2007

Cárdenismo and the rise of the PRI

- Edwin Williamson, Excerpts from Chapter 10, "Mexico: Revolution and Stability." In *The Penguin History of Latin America*, pp. 397-409.
- Arturo Anguiano. "Cárdenas and the Masses." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.

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REQUIRED: EMAIL RYAN YOUR BIO (COMPLETE WITH HYPERTEXT LINKS) AND PHOTO FOR BLOG.

Friday, 6/1/2007

Student presentations. Working group meetings.

Monday, 6/4/2007

Corporatism and organized labor under the PRI

Tuesday, 6/5/2007

Corporatism and the peasantry under the PRI

- Juan Rulfo. "They Gave us the Land." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.

Wednesday, 6/6/2007

ISI and "stabilizing development" of the 1950s-1960s

REQUIRED: Visit to MARCO

Thursday, 6/7/2007

The organization of business under the PRI

Friday, 6/8/2007

Student presentations. Working group meetings.

Monday, 6/11/2007

Views of Mexican 'identity' and 'culture'

- Octavio Paz, "The Sons of La Malinche." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.
- Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, "The Problem of National Culture." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.
- Roger Bartra. "Does it Mean Anything to be Mexican?" In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.

Tuesday, 6/12/2007

The student movement of 1968

- Elena Poniatowska. "The Student Movement of 1968." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.
- Octavio Paz. "Olympics and Tlatelolco." In *The Labyrinth of Solitude and the Other Mexico*.

REQUIRED: Visit to Mexican History Museum

Wednesday, 6/13/2007

Mid-term exam

Thursday, 6/14/2007

Student presentations. Working group meetings.

Friday, 6/15/2007 – Sunday, 6/17/2007

Class in Guanajuato

- Lucas Alamán. "The Siege of Guanajuato." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.
- Movie on bus: *Ley de Herodes*

Monday, 6/18/2007

The 1970s: Deepening ISI and political liberalization

Tuesday, 6/19/2007

Cracks in the façade: The 1982 debt crisis and the 1985 earthquake

Wednesday, 6/20/2007

Political and economic liberalization in the 1980s and 1990s

- Roderic Camp. "Chapter 8: Expanding Participation, The Electoral Process." *Politics in Mexico*, 5th ed.
- Roderic Camp. "Chapter 3: Contemporary Political Culture." *Politics in Mexico*, 5th ed.
- Roderic Camp. "Chapter 10: Political and Economic Modernization." *Politics in Mexico*, 5th ed.
- Mauricio A. González Gómez. "Crisis and Change in Mexico." In *Mexico Under Zedillo*, Luis Rubio and Susan Kaufman Purcell, eds.

Thursday, 6/21/2007

Consequences of liberalization: macroeconomic growth, crisis, informality, and poverty

- Víctor L. Urquidí. "Mexico's Development Challenges." In *Confronting Development: Assessing Mexico's Economic and Social Policy Challenges*, Kevin J. Middlebrook and Eduardo Zepeda, eds.
- Keith Griffin and Amy Ickowitz. "Confronting Human Development in Mexico." In *Confronting Development: Assessing Mexico's Economic and Social Policy Challenges*, Kevin J. Middlebrook and Eduardo Zepeda, eds.

REQUIRED: Visit to Multimedios Television y Radio

Friday, 6/22/2007

Student presentations. Working group meetings.

Monday, 6/25/2007

Insecurity, drugs, and crime

Tuesday, 6/26/2007

The 2000 elections and the administration of Vicente Fox

- Wayne A. Cornelius. "Mexicans Would Not be Bought, Coerced." In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.
- Luis Rubio. "Democratic Politics in Mexico: New Complexities." In *Mexico Under Fox*, Luis Rubio and Susan Kaufman Purcell, eds.
- Roderic Camp. "Chapter 6: Groups and the State." *Politics in Mexico*, 5th ed.

Wednesday, 6/27/2007

The 2006 elections and the administration of Felipe Calderon

Thursday, 6/28/2007

Review for final exam

Friday, 6/29/2007

Final exam