

HISTORY 331: HISTORY OF MEXICO

- Spring Semester, 2009, MWF – 10AM to 11AM
- Department of History, Ohio Wesleyan University
- Jeremy Baskes, Elliott 109, ext. 3638
- Office Hours: Just stop by or call
- www.owu.edu/~jabaskes/hist331.pdf

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of the history of Mexico with emphasis on the variety of forces contributing to the formation of modern Mexico. Special emphasis on the clash between Mexico's European and Indigenous populations and the major social, political and economic upheavals of the Mexican Revolution.

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE: The following required books are available at the OWU Bookstore:

- Michael C. Meyer, William L. Sherman and Susan M. Deeds. *The Course of Mexican History*. 8th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Inga Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests, Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570*, (Cambridge, 2003).
- William Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club*, (Lincoln, 1987).
- Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*, Translated by E. Munguía, Jr., (New York, 1992).
- Judith Adler Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, (New York, 1994).
- Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*, (New York, 2005).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Examinations:** There will be a midterm and a final. The midterm will cover all materials prior to the exam. The final exam will be comprehensive---it will cover materials from the entire course. Consult the syllabus for the exact date of the midterm. The final examination will take place at the time determined by the Registrar.
- **Written Assignments:** 3 Book Reviews: Each student will be required to prepare 1000 word (4 pages) book essays of Inga Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests* and two of the following four books 1) William Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club*; 2) Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*; 3) Judith Adler Hellman, *Mexican Lives*; or 4) Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*. Due dates are specified in the syllabus. Consult the guideline (see attached) for the writing of these book essays.

OTHER ISSUES:

- **Late Papers:** Papers submitted late will be penalized one full grade per day. (From A to B for example). All papers are due IN CLASS. Anything handed in after class will be treated as late.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students plagiarizing will be failed for the course and reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.
- **Class Participation and Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory but is not sufficient. There will be significant opportunities for class discussions, and vocal class participation is expected of all students. Students with excessive absences will have their grades penalized.

GRADES: Final grades will be determined as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Midterm exam | 17% |
| • Attendance & participation | 10% |
| • Book Review #1 | 17% |
| • Book Review #2 | 17% |
| • Book Review #3 | 17% |
| • Final examination | 22% |

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK 1: (Monday 1/12) MEXICO'S PRE-COLUMBIAN LEGACY

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 2 & 5.

Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, ch 1-3.

WEEK 2: (Monday 1/19) ENCOUNTER & THE CONQUEST

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 6-7.

Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, ch. 4-8 & epilogue.

WEEK 3: (Monday 1/26) STRUCTURES OF COLONIAL SOCIETY & ECONOMY

Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, ch. 9-12 & epilogue.

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 9-11.

WEEK 4: (Monday 2/2) LATE COLONIAL PERIOD & INDEPENDENCE



Monday- Essay on *Ambivalent Conquests* due in class (Required of All Students)

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 13-16.

WEEK 5: (Monday 2/9) CHAOS, SANTA ANA, & WAR (1821-48)

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 17-18

WEEK 6: (Monday 2/16) THE REFORM, JUAREZ & THE FRENCH OCCUPATION (1848-76)

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 19-20.

WEEK 7: (Monday 2/23) EXAM WEEK & THE PORFIRIATO: PART 1



Wednesday - MIDTERM EXAM (through week 6)

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 21.

Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club*, pp. 3-66.

WEEK 8: (Monday 3/2) ORDER & PROGRESS: THE PORFIRIATO: PART 2

Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club*, pp. 67-132.

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 23-24.

MID-SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 9: (Monday 3/16) DISORDER & THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION 1910-1915



Monday – Essay on *Judas at the Jockey Club* due in class.

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 26-28.

Azuela, *The Underdogs*, Part 1 (NOT just chapter 1!!)

WEEK 10: (Monday 3/23) THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION (PART 2): 1915-1920

Azuela, *The Underdogs*, Parts 2-3.

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 29-30.

WEEK 11: (Monday 3/30) IMPLEMENTING THE REVOLUTION: 1920-40



Monday – Essay on *The Underdogs* due in class.

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 31-34.

WEEK 12: (Monday 4/6) THE MEXICAN MIRACLE: 1940-1967

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 35

Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, ch. Intro, 1, 3 & 4.

WEEK 13: (Monday 4/13) MIRACULOUS MISERY & MASSACRE: 1968-81

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 36.

Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, ch. 4, 6, 7, 8 & conclusion

WEEK 14: (Monday 4/20) CRISIS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY FAMILY – 1982-2000



Monday – Essay on *Mexican Lives* due in class.

Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*, entire book.

WEEK 15: (Monday 4/27) THE END OF THE PRI AND THE TRAGEDY OF MIGRATION

Meyer, Sherman & Deeds, ch. 38.



Wednesday – Essay on *The Devil's Highway* due in class.

The final examination is Tuesday, May 5 at 8:30AM.

Book Essays

During the semester, you will write 1000 word (4 pages) essays discussing three of the course's required books. You are required to write the essay on Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, but you may select your other two books from the remaining four. To help guide you, I have provided questions for you to address. All of the essays should be clear and cohesive. State your "thesis" (what you consider to be the answer to the question) in the opening paragraph. The rest of the paper should develop your thesis and provide evidence from the book. Be sure to cite the location of your evidence, whether direct quotes or merely factual references. Direct quotations in support of your arguments should be used, but should be kept brief, a sentence or two at the longest. Your concluding paragraph should reiterate your thesis and make a general statement about the book's treatment of the issue.

REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS

#1 Essay on Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*

How did the Maya respond to Catholicism? Was it embraced? Rejected? Why did they respond as they did, and what does this reveal about the nature of the Spanish conquest of the indigenous peoples?

CHOOSE 2 OF THE FOLLOWING 4:

#2 Essay on Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club*

Why and how did "culture" become a central battleground in the struggle to define Mexico in the turn of the twentieth century?

#3 Essay on Azuela, *The Underdogs*

In this classic novel, one sees Azuela's perspective of the changing character of the Mexican Revolution. How does Azuela portray the Mexican Revolution? In answering your question, analyze closely the characters of Demetrio Macias and Luis Cervantes, among others.

#4 Essay on Hellman, *Mexican Lives*

How did the PRI affect the daily lives of the Mexicans, both rich and poor, described in this book? What role did the PRI play in these peoples' ability to survive and make a living? In light of this how do you think the PRI maintained its power?

#5 Essay on Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*

What conclusions or lessons might one draw from this book in regards to the "immigration issue" in the United States?