

HIST 3366/-01
History of Mexico
And
Central America

Semester: Fall 2019 Location: Social Science 3010
Meeting Time: M W F 2:30 to 3:20

Instructor: Professor Alan LeBaron

Office: KSU Center 324

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 5:00 pm or by appointment

Office Phone: 470 578 2304 Email address: alebaron@kennesaw.edu

Course Communication: The best method of reaching the professor of this class is by sending email to alebaron@kennesaw.edu . 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 overview the major themes of 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 post-colonial nations-states of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. This semester, in order to participate in the Year of Cuba events, this class will also highlight Cuba.

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: (4 books)

Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village

Victor Montejo

Curbstone Press (now Northwestern University Press)

July 1995

ISBN 978-0-915306-65-7

The History of Cuba

Clifford L. Staten

St. Martin’s Press Giffin, 2003

ISBN 978-1-4039-6259-1

Mexico and the Spanish Conquest 2nd Edition
Ross Hassig
University of Oklahoma Press, 2014
ISBN 978-8061-3793-3

Mexico and its War with the United States
Timothy J. Henderson
Hill and Wang, 2007
ISBN 978-0-8090-4967-7

Attendance Policy:

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

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:

- 1) Individual class portfolios will serve as the foundation to student assignments and assessments. Portfolios chart your understandings and analysis of the readings and the daily course work. The professor will guide the portfolios during the first of classes.
- 2) The final exam will be based on the readings and lectures, and will be composed of multiple choice, identification of terms, dates, places, and names.

Portfolio Guideline:

Portfolios must be submitted electronically. Entries for each day of class should be 300 words or more. Additional entries can be made for special events or special assignments.

- Create a cover page with name and class details
- Times New Roman, 12 Font
- Put page numbers on each page
- Citations from the four books can follow this style: (Montejo, 33)
- Each day's entry should begin with an opening statement and end with concluding remarks.
- Year of Cuba events may be attended for extra entries

Makeup Exams and Late Assignments: Makeups are allowed with legitimate excuses such as inclement weather or documented medical or family emergencies. (Not to include weddings, birthdays, or vacations)

Grade Calculations

The Portfolio will be graded two times, or in other words in two parts. Each part is valued at 35% of the class grade. The final exam is valued at 30%.

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/sds.

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)

Course Schedule:

- **August 29 class cancelled**
- **October 4: Portfolio Part One due**
- **November 13: Portfolio Part Two due**
- **October 9: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty**
- **Fall Break November 25 December 1**
- **Final Exam: December 11, 1 pm to 3pm**

Schedule of Topics:

Week 1 and 2	Guatemala, Cuba, and Nicaragua: Connections <i>Testimony</i> by Victor Montejo
Week 3, 4,5	Cuba in the Americas <i>The History of Cuba</i> by Clifford Staten
Week 6 and 7	The Beginnings of the Americas and the Black Legend <i>Mexico and the Spanish Conquest</i> by Ross Hassig
Week 8 and 9	New Spain and Wars of Independence Lectures
Week 10,11,12	United States expansion into Mexico and the creation of modern USA and Mexico <i>Mexico and its War with the United States</i> by Tim

	Henderson	
Week 13	Porfirio Diaz and Revolution in Mexico Lectures	
Week 14- 15	Anglo and Hispanic Relations Yesterday and Today Guests and discussions	

Changes to this syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Any substantive changes which impact grade calculations or grading will be announced in writing using D2L and will be emailed to the class. If you have concerns about announced changes, please contact the instructor and ask for clarification before the end of the semester