

## Mexico from Revolution to Democracy

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Spring 2016	Department of History, Columbia University
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	Office hours: M, 12:00-1:00 pm
<b>Teaching assistant:</b>	<b>Section meetings:</b>
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This course will survey a century of Mexican history that oscillated between an authoritarian regime (Porfirio Díaz's presidency, 1876-1911), a massive revolutionary upheaval (1911-1920), the construction of a single-party, corporatist regime that became a model of stability and economic success (that of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional), and a complex transition to democracy (culminated in the July 2000 presidential elections).

Politics will be defined in broad terms. Lectures and readings will consider social and cultural processes from diverse perspectives. Topics will include: migration and population growth; economic expansion and stagnation; urban history, crime and punishment; gender, women and families; elite and popular culture; labor, agrarian reform; the left, electoral and armed insurgency; relations with the United States and other countries of Latin America. Local and regional perspectives will be offered as an alternative against prevailing state-centered, national narratives. Combining thematic and chronological lectures and discussion of primary sources, the course will examine the most exciting recent literature on Mexican society, culture, and politics.

Discussion of primary sources will be an important component of this course. Classes will combine lecture and discussion of historical contents with discussion of primary documents. These documents will include texts (political manifestos, essays, letters, testimonies, legislation, literature) as well as movies, music and visual records (mostly photography and painting). Discussions sections will also use those documents to expand on topics presented in the lectures and the required readings.

The paper will be based on novels and movies, according to the options provided in the section below. Required weekly readings reinforce the historical context provided in the lectures. They will be part of the discussion at class time, help in the writing of the papers, and be a component of the exams.

The course will require one paper (20% of the grade), a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (30%), and participation in discussion sections and classes (20%).

### **Paper:**

**You must hand a printout to your teaching assistant on the due date, May 1, at the beginning of class.** No electronic files will be accepted. You will write an essay in which you analyze a combination of the novel, play or movies using the readings and discussions of the class. For example, you can write a paper on urban themes using *Salón México*, *Los Olvidados* and *The Mongolian Conspiracy*. You must cite all the texts you reference, and include a bibliography. The paper should be between 5 and 8 double spaced pages. Focus on the movies listed below or one of the following titles: (See bibliography for full references)

Bernal, *The Mongolian Conspiracy*.

Usigli, *The Impostor*.  
Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo*.

### **Movies:**

During lectures and discussion sections we will watch and comment on the following movies:

*María Candelaria*.  
*Salón México*.  
*Nosotros los pobres*.  
*Los olvidados*.

### **Exams:**

Before exams, discussion sections will review the material covered in the lectures and the readings below (full information in bibliography). You should read the following to complement the lectures and prepare for the exams:

- Joseph and Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*.
- Womack, "The Mexican Revolution" in *Mexico Since Independence*.
- Knight, "The Rise and Fall of Cardenismo" in *Mexico Since Independence*.
- Alec Dawson, *First World Dreams*, chaps. 1 to 4.
- Grillo, *El Narco*.

### **Participation:**

#### In-class discussion:

Attendance to lectures and discussion sections is mandatory. More than one absence or late arrival without justification will be reflected in the final grade.

Read the required readings and primary documents in Joseph and Henderson, *The Mexico Reader* and other sources before each meeting.

#### Discussion sections:

You must attend discussion sections with the TA and participate in the conversation by doing the relevant readings. You will be required to post to the discussion board for several of your meetings. These meetings will cover the material for the final exam.

**Laptops and tablets** are not to be used during class. There is evidence that traditional pen-and-paper note taking produces better learning results (see, for example, <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom>).

### **Academic Honesty**

It is a firm expectation that in all participation and submissions you will only represent as your own work, ideas, and writing that which is entirely your own; and that you will in all ways adhere to the Columbia College Honor Code. This is not only crucial for fair evaluation of student work but also lies at the core of the human intellectual and ethical endeavor embodied by the University. Plagiarizing, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Please review the Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity, as well as the entire The Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity. As the Guide states, "There are many ways in which academic

work might be considered dishonest... It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes a violation of the expectations of trust and honesty in any given class. [...] Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your work in a particular class it is vital that you clarify them with the instructor of record.”

Pay close attention to the part of the Guide on proper citation of sources. Violations of any kind will be taken very seriously and will be dealt with according to History Department policy and the University’s Disciplinary Process, which may lead to expulsion.

### Schedule of themes and readings:

			Assignments
Jan. 18	1	Introduction	
Jan. 23	2	The Reforma and intervention	MR: 270-2; chapter by Pani in <i>A Companion to Mexican History</i> .
Jan. 25	3	The Porfiriato	MR: 273-8; chapter by Garner in <i>A Companion to Mexican History</i> ; Buffington and French, “The culture of Modernity” in <i>The Oxford History of Mexico</i> .
Jan. 30	4	The porfiriato, continued	MR: 285-291; Coatsworth, “Railroads, Landholding, and Agrarian Protest.”
Feb. 1	5	The Mexican Revolution, Maderismo	MR: 335-8; Plan de San Luis; Tannenbaum, <i>Mexico, The Struggle</i> , chap. 4.
Feb. 6	6	The Mexican Revolution, Agrarismo, Constitucionalismo	MR: 338-50. Chapter by Katz in Tutino et al, <i>Cycles of Conflict</i> .
Feb. 8	7	1917 Constitution. The 1920s.	MR: 398-402; Middlebrook, <i>The Paradox</i> , p. 41-71.
Feb. 13	8	Maximato.	MR: 421-5; chapter by Buchenau in <i>A Companion to Mexican History</i> .
Feb. 15	9	Education. Cristiada.	Butler, “Revolution and the Ritual Year.”
Feb. 20	10	Lázaro Cárdenas his politics and his legacy.	MR: 452-60.
Feb. 22	11	Agrarian reform, from radicalism to bureaucracy. Labor up to Cárdenas	MR: 439-51; chapter by Tutino in Tutino and Servín, <i>Cycles of Conflict</i> .
Feb. 27	12	Art, cinema and the cultural project.	MR: 493-9; chapter by Snodgrass in Vaughan and Lewis, <i>The Eagle and the Virgin</i> .
Mar. 1	13	Change of direction: 1940	MR: 470-81; chapter by Snodgrass in Gillingham et al., <i>Dictablanda</i> .
Mar. 6	14	Mexico and WWII	Watch <i>Salón México</i> .

Mar. 8	15	Midterm.	
Mar. 20	16	The Mexican miracle. Ruiz Cortines, López Mateos.	Introduction and-articles by Iber and Padilla in Padilla and Walker, “In the Archives: History and Politics”; Coatsworth, “Mexico.”
Mar. 22	17	Mexico City and urban history. Crime	MR: 512-9; Piccato, “Murder as Politics in Modern Mexico.”
Mar. 27	18	Society and culture.	Chapter by Pérez Montfort in <i>A Companion to Mexican History</i> .
Mar. 29	19	Left up to 1960s.	Chapter by Rodríguez Kuri in <i>A Companion to Mexican History</i> .
Apr. 3	20	Screening of <i>María Candelaria</i> .	Monsiváis, “From 68 to Cardenismo.”
Apr. 5	21	The left continued: 68, guerrilla, dirty war. Cuba.	MR: 482-91, 555-69; chapters by Aviña and Cedillo in Padilla and Walker, “In the Archives: History and Politics”.
Apr. 10	22	The 1980s and 1990s: Economic crises and neoliberal regimes Population growth	MR: 579-90; Lustig, <i>Mexico: The Remaking of an Economy</i> , chapters. 1 and 2.
Apr. 12	23	The 1980s and 1990s, continued	MR: 670-83.
Apr. 17	24	Electoral insurgency, 1959 to 1988. The PAN.	MR: 591-7; Poniatowska, “The Earthquake”; chapter by Tavera in Cornelius et al, <i>Subnational Politics</i> .
Apr. 19	25	New social movements: students, neighbors, indigenous peoples. Chiapas. Second paper due.	MR: 638-45, 655-69; chapter by Rubin in Cornelius et al, <i>Subnational Politics</i> .
Apr. 24	26	Transition to democracy Optional Rough Draft Paper due.	MR: 619-37; Lawson, “Mexico's Unfinished Transition.”
Apr. 26	27	Human rights. Drugs.	MR: 698-707, 717-27. Aguayo Quezada, “Neither Truth nor Justice.”
May 1	28	Violence Paper due.	Chapters by Shirk and Knight in Pansters, <i>Violence, Coercion, and State-Making</i> .
TBA			Final

### Bibliography:

General readings: *These books are recommended, but not required. They are available for purchase at Book Culture.*

Bethell, *Mexico since independence*. A good reference, particularly the chapters by Katz, Womack, and Knight.

Chapters can be used, along with lecture notes, to help with background for the papers.

Dawson, *First World Dreams*. An engaging, sometimes opinionated but also balanced look at the last decades.

Knight, *The Mexican Revolution*. An extensive, solid, engaging history of the revolution. Highly recommended if you want to look into specific regions, periods or characters, or for an overview.

Tutino, *From Insurrection to Revolution*. A synthesis of agrarian history that will complement the discussion. Very useful to understand the nineteenth century and the revolution.

Tutino, John, Elisa Servin, and Leticia Reina, eds. *Cycles of Conflict, Centuries of Change: Crisis, Reform, and Revolution in Mexico*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007. (Selections available in Courseworks.)

Joseph and Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*. A new synthesis with useful references to current historiography.

Joseph and Henderson, *The Mexico reader*. This book contains a large selection of documents pertaining to Mexican history. It can be used to add material to papers and reports, and during discussions.

Hamilton, *Mexico: Political, Social and Economic Evolution*. A look at the contemporary history from a political science perspective.

References: This is the complete bibliographic information for all the required and recommended books, and it also includes other useful titles that you may wish to consult. *These books are all placed on reserve at Butler*. Assigned chapters have been scanned and made available in the Courseworks Files section for the class.

*A Companion to Mexican History and Culture*. Ed. by William Beezley. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Selections available in Courseworks.)

Aguayo Quezada, Sergio, Javier Treviño Rangel and Maria Pallais, "Neither Truth nor Justice: Mexico's De Facto Amnesty," *Latin American Perspectives* Vol. 33, No. 2, (Mar., 2006), pp. 56-68. *Stable URL:* <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27647917>.

Azuela, Mariano, *Los de Abajo: Novela de la Revolución Mexicana* (various editions). In English: *The Underdogs: A novel of the Mexican Revolution* (various editions).

Bernal, Rafael. *The Mongolian Conspiracy*. New York : New Directions Publishing Corporation, 2013.

Bethell, Leslie. *Mexico since Independence*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press. 1991.

Bliss, Katherine Elaine. "Guided by an Imperious, Moral Need. Prostitutes, Motherhood, and Nationalism in Revolutionary Mexico." In *Reconstructing Criminality in Latin America*, edited by C. A. Aguirre and R. Buffington. Wilmington: Scholarly Resources. 2000.

Boyer, Christopher R. *Becoming Campesinos: Politics, Identity, and Agrarian Struggle in Postrevolutionary Michoacan, 1920-1935*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press. 2003.

Brading, D. A and Alan Knight (eds.), *Caudillo and Peasant in the Mexican Revolution*. Cambridge, 1980

Brunk, Samuel. *Emiliano Zapata! : Revolution and betrayal in Mexico*. 1st ed. ed. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. 1995.

Buffington, Robert, and Pablo Piccato. *True Stories of Crime in Modern Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009.

Butler, Matthew. 2006. "Revolution and the Ritual Year: Religious Conflict and Innovation in Cristero Mexico". *Journal of Latin American Studies* 38 (3). Cambridge University Press: 465–90.

Carey, Elaine. *Plaza of Sacrifices: Gender, Power, and Terror in 1968 Mexico*. 1st ed. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005.

Coatsworth, John. "Railroads, Landholding, and Agrarian Protest in the Early Porfiriato". *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 54 (1). Duke University Press: 48–71. 1974.

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Cornelius, Wayne A. *Subnational Politics and Democratization in Mexico, U.S.-Mexico contemporary perspectives series ; 13*. La Jolla: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies University of California San Diego. 1999.

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- Gillingham, Paul, and Benjamin Smith, eds. *Dictablanda: Politics, Work, and Culture in Mexico, 1938–1968*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014. (Selections available in Courseworks.)
- Grillo, Ioan. *El Narco: Inside Mexico's Criminal Insurgency*. New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2011.
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### A chronology of modern Mexican politics

1858-1861	Reforma War	1932-1934	Abelardo Rodríguez
1861-1867	French intervention	1934-1940	Lázaro Cárdenas
1864-1867	Second Empire, Maximilian	1938	Partido de la Revolución Mexicana (PRM)
1867-1879	República Restaurada	1938	Expropriation of oil companies
1867-1872	Benito Juárez	1939	Partido Acción Nacional (PAN)
1872-1876	Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada	1940-1946	Manuel Ávila Camacho
1876-1880	Porfirio Díaz	1942	Declaration of war against Germany, Japan and Italy
1880-1884	Manuel González	1946	Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)
1884-1911	Porfirio Díaz	1946-1952	Miguel Alemán Valdés
1910	Plan de San Luis	1952-1958	Adolfo Ruiz Cortines
1911	Francisco León de la Barra	1953	Women's vote
1911-1913	Francisco I. Madero	1958-1964	Adolfo López Mateos
1913-1914	Victoriano Huerta	1964-1970	Gustavo Díaz Ordaz
1914-1915	Aguascalientes Convention	1968	Student Movement, Olympic Games
1917	Constitution of 1917	1970-1976	Luis Echeverría Álvarez
1917-1920	Venustiano Carranza	1976-1982	José López Portillo
1919	Partido Comunista Mexicano (PCM)	1982-1988	Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado
1920	Adolfo de la Huerta	1985	Mexico City earthquake
1920-1924	Álvaro Obregón	1988	Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD)
1924-1928	Plutarco Elías Calles	1988-1994	Carlos Salinas de Gortari
1926-1929	Cristero war	1994	Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional insurrection in Chiapas
1928-1934	Maximato	1994-2000	Ernesto Zedillo
1928-1929	Emilio Portes Gil	2000-2006	Vicente Fox
1929	Partido Nacional Revolucionario (PNR)	2006-2012	Felipe Calderón
1929-1932	Pascual Ortiz Rubio	2012-	Enrique Peña Nieto



# STATES AND CAPITALS

