History 154: History of Mexico

Course Syllabus - Fall 2011

Mr. Jason R. Suárez

Phone: (310) 660-3593 ext. 3769  
E-mail: jsuarez@elcamino.edu

Office: BSS 115

Office Hours: T/Th 6:30am-7:30am and W 4:00-6:00pm

Online Office Hours: M 6:30-7:30pm

Meebo Office Hours: M 6:30-7:30pm

Skype Office Hours: M 6:30-7:30pm

Instructor Skype Contact: ecchistory

Course Web Site: http://suarezol.org/joomla

Course Description

This course surveys the political, social, cultural, and economic history of Mexico from Pre-Columbian times to the present. Discussion of major epochs of Mexican history will focus on the influence of various cultural groups in shaping modern Mexico.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of History 154:

1. Students will identify and explain major social, economic, political and cultural patterns in a written or oral assignment.

2. Students will accurately identify a primary or secondary source relating to history and apply the appropriate historical methods to explain what the source reveals about its historical context.

3. Students will develop and persuasively argue an historical thesis in a written or oral assignment that effectively uses primary and/or secondary sources.

Course Objectives

1. Identify the role of geography in Mexican history.

2. Describe and assess the cultural contributions of various pre-Columbian civilizations of Mexico.

3. Evaluate Spain's impact on Mexican historical development.

4. Analyze the Spanish colonial period in economic, political, religious and social terms.
5. Identify and discuss the causes of the Mexican Independence movement against Spanish rule including major participants and events.

6. Assess the economic and political challenges faced by Mexico during early nationhood.

7. Evaluate Mexican foreign diplomatic relations during the nineteenth century with an emphasis on the role of the United States.

8. Discuss and determine the complex philosophies and politics of the age of the Reform.

9. Analyze the economic, political, and social characteristics of the age of Porfirio Diaz.

10. Analyze the causes, effects, and aftermath of the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

11. Identify and evaluate the major political issues of Modern Mexico from 1910 to the present.

12. Compare and contrast Native America and European cultural contributions in shaping Mexican identity.

Assessment Measures

Student performance in History 154 will be assessed in four ways:

1. **Essay Examinations (60% of the grade):** Writing an effective college level in-class essay examination requires that students have knowledge of the subject matter and that students have the ability to organize the knowledge into a coherent set of arguments. An effective essay has a clear introduction, a solid body of evidence and argumentation and a firm conclusion based on what was written. Unlike take-home essay examinations, an in-class essay examination must also contend with time. To ensure that you are exposed to wide range of assessment measures, students enrolled in History 154 will complete two essay exams in which major social, economic, political and cultural patterns will be reconstructed through the analysis and evaluation of historical sources. Dates TBA.

2. **Objective Examinations (30% of the grade):** Students will complete in-class and online examinations in which historical periods, themes and ideas will be analyzed and evaluated to determine the accuracy of their presentation. These examinations will test a student's course knowledge base and a student's ability to read critically in determine a correct answer. Dates TBA.

3. **Seminars (5% of the grade):** Creating a community of learners through academic and social involvement in the classroom encourages students to be active participants in the learning process and promotes their persistence in the pursuit of their educational goals, whether it be completing a certificate program, attaining an Associate of Arts/Science degree, or transferring to a four-year institution. To emphasize this aspect of your academic training, students will collaboratively address a variety of historical questions by analyzing primary and secondary sources in a seminar setting. Dates TBA.

4. **Resource Page (5% of the grade):** Students will be introduced to research methodology by constructing a resource page that will cite scholarly monographs, articles and websites for a
selected topic within the scope of this course. Through the completion of this assignment, students will gain knowledge of library resources and research methods. Date TBA.

**Required Books/Materials**

The following books and materials are required for this course. They are available at the El Camino College Bookstore.


**Computer/Internet Access**

Students must access the Internet to download lecture notes. If you do not have Internet access, be sure to use one of the many computer labs accessible at El Camino College. For example, computers can be accessed at the Library Media Technology Center (LMTC) located at the East Lower Level of Schauerman Library. Call (310) 660-6715 for hours of operation. What software and hardware will you need for this course? You must have at a minimum:

- Internet access
- A PC with Windows and a Pentium processor or a Macintosh with at least System 9.0
- A recent version of a web browser such as Microsoft Explorer or Firefox
- An Internet Service Provider
- An Email Address
- Microsoft Word version 2003 or earlier
- PDF File Reader

**Student Grade Record**

The course grade will be based on two essay examinations and four objective examinations, a series of secondary source analysis and seminar participation. All examinations are graded on the 100% scale. Please be sure to retain all materials returned. The following is the course grade distribution.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>59% and below</td>
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**Should I be enrolled in this Course?**

History 154 is a college level history course. Consequently, it requires that students possess sound reading and writing skills. Students who are carrying an excessive load of classes this semester, who are working an excessive number of hours, or who have not completed the recommended preparation
eligibility of English 1A, are asked to carefully consider if they should be enrolled in this course.

**Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory in this class! Be sure to explore El Camino College's online course offerings if you do not enjoy being in a classroom setting. Students are responsible for signing the attendance roster. If a student is unable to attend class, it is his/her responsibility to notify the instructor through an e-mail message. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the following statement on attendance taken from the El Camino College Catalog: *Regular attendance is expected of every student. A student may be dropped from the class when the number of hours absent exceeds the number of units assigned to the course.* Please drop this course immediately if you cannot commit to three hours of class time a week and the required time necessary to prepare for this course outside of the classroom. If a student stops attending class, then it is their responsibility to drop the course. Failure to do so will result in an F issued for the course grade.

**Rules of Conduct**

The instructor will not tolerate disruptive behavior in class. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to: coming to class unprepared, arriving late to class, striking up a conversation with your neighbor during class, taking naps during class, failing to take notes during class, leaving class early, not coming to class, and forgetting to turn off cell phones and pagers before coming into class. Dishonesty, plagiarism, and cheating will result in immediate dismissal from this course. Please drop this course immediately if you cannot follow the rules of conduct cited above.

**How to Succeed in this Course**

What makes a successful college student? Successful college students accept personal responsibility, are self-motivated, and have mastered self-management. This course will call upon students to adopt and apply these principles by asking them to:

1. Study consistently throughout the semester
2. Stay on top of reading assignments.
3. Take detailed notes.
4. Review their notes regularly.
5. Have assignments ready in advance
6. Work on writing skills.
7. Attend class regularly.
8. Visit the instructor during office hours.

**American with Disabilities Act**

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.

Also, please inform the instructor if you need course adaptations or accommodation in the classroom because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with your instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated.
Proposed Topics and Readings

The instructor reserves the right to alter or deviate from the proposed topics and reading schedule. Students will be notified in advance should changes be made. The most current schedule will always be available on the instructor's web page.

BEFORE THE ENCOUNTER (c. 1200-1500)

The Nature of Historical Knowledge

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, Introduction
- Tuñon Pablos, Introduction
- "The Aztlan Migrations of the Nahuatl Chronicles: Myth or History?" Michael E. Smith. Ethnohistory Vol. 31, No. 3 (Summer, 1984)

Mesoamerican Periodization

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 1: Land of a Millenarium Civilization
- Film: Breaking the Maya Code (in-class viewing)
- Seminar: Deciphering Maya Writing (seminar materials located on the course website)

The Codex Mendoza

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 2: The Indian Recognized
- Tuñon Pablos, Chapter 1: Women in the Mexica World
- Seminar: The Question of Human Sacrifice (materials for this seminar are located on the course website)

One God, One King, One Law

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:
• Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 3: De-Indianizing that which is Indian

• The History of Spain and Portugal, Stanley G. Payne, Chapter 4: Castile-León in the Era of the Great Reconquest, Chapter 9: The United Spanish Monarchy

• Primary Source Analysis: The Chronicle of Alfonso The Emperor (selections - located on the course website)

THE ORDERING OF THE COLONIAL WORLD (c. 1521-1800)

Encomienda and Encomenderos

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

• Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 4: The Problem of a National Culture


• Hernán Cortés, Letters to the King of Spain (selections - located on the course website)

The Spiritual Conquest of Mexico

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

• Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 5: The Colonial Order


• Seminar: The Morelos Census (materials for this seminar are located on the course website)

The Ordering of the Colonial World

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

• Tuñon Pablos, Chapter 2; Women in New Spain


• Primary Source Analysis: Scandal at the Church (selections - located on the course website)

The Criollo-Peninsular Controversy

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:
Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 6: Forging a Nation

Tuñon Pablos, Chapter 3: women in the Nineteenth Century


Seminar: Second Treatise on Government: The State of Nature (materials for this seminar are located on the course website)

INDEPENDENCE AND THE FAILURE OF CONSENSUS (c. 1800-1910)

El Grito de Dolores

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:


Primary Source Analysis: El Plan de Iguala (selections - located on the course website)

The Constitution of 1857

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:


Primary Source Analysis: The Triumph of the Republic - Benito Juárez (selections - located on the course website)

Porfiriat: Order and Progress at a Cost

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 7: Our Modern Times

Tuñon Pablos, Chapter 4: Peace in Porfirian Times


Primary Source Analysis: Plan de San Luis de Potosí (selections - located on the course website)
LA REVOLUCION AND BEYOND (c. 1910-Present)

La Revolución

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, *Chapter 8: The Paths of Indian Survival*
- Tuñon Pablos, *Chapter 5: From Revolution to Stability*
- Film: *The Last Zapatistas*
- *Plan de Ayala* (selections - located on the course website)
- Seminar: *La Revolución* (materials for this seminar are located on the course website)

From La Revolución to the Modern State

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, *Chapters 9: The Nation We Have Today/Chapter 10: Civilization and Alternatives*
- Tuñon Pablos, *Chapter 6: From Development to Crisis*