History 154: History of Mexico

Course Syllabus - Spring 2011

Mr. Jason R. Suárez

Office: CTO 110C

Phone: (310) 660-3593 ext. 3769

E-mail: jsuarez@elcamino.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 6:30am-7:30am and 3:20-3:50pm
Sat 11:00am-12:00pm

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 Introduction

Welcome to History 154! This course surveys the main political, social, economic, and intellectual developments that have shaped Mexico from the pre-Columbian period to the 20th century. The purpose of this course is twofold. First, to assist students in acquiring knowledge about the development of Mexico’s history and the impact this history has had on shaping contemporary life in Mexico. Second, to instruct students in the skills of historical thinking. These skills include a historian’s ability to analyze the content of documentary evidence, understand events in their historical context, and draw tentative conclusions from limited data. To accomplish this, students will be exposed to primary sources, secondary sources, and cultural artifacts through lectures, assigned readings, and multimedia.

The content of this course is organized into four themes. The first theme, Before the Encounter (c. 1200-1521), examines how the past is reconstructed by historians. It also surveys pre-Columbian Mesoamerican history. It identifies the changes that facilitated Spanish expansion into the Americas. The second theme, The Ordering of the Colonial World (c. 1521-1800), examines the colonial order established by Spain in Mexico and its attempt to restructure the Native American world. It analyzes the political, economic and social policies that would eventually fuel an independence movement. The third theme, Independence and the Failure of Consensus (c. 1800-1911), examines the causes and events that led to Mexico’s quest for independence. It analyzes the struggle between liberal policies and colonial legacies. It explores the impact Porfirio Díaz’s push for order and progress had on Mexico. The fourth theme, La Revolución and Beyond, analyzes the impact and meaning of La Revolución and how it has shaped the course of Mexican history in the 20th century.

This survey course cannot hope to do justice to nearly 2800 years of history in a time span of one semester. Consequently, a selection process has taken place in an attempt to synthesize these 2800 years of history into thirty-two class meetings. In doing so, certain social, economic, political and intellectual developments will be simplified, briefly mentioned, or even omitted during lectures. It is equally important for students to realize that the synthesis provided by the instructor represents only one of many ways to interpret the themes covered in History 154. It is not absolute truth! The
information presented in this course, however, does provide a base from which students can launch their own investigations into the past. It is my hope that students will take from this course the basic knowledge and skills necessary to begin forming their own views and interpretations about the history of 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.

2. **Objective Examinations (15% 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.

3. **Seminars (15% 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.

4. **Resource Page (10% 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.

Required Books/Materials

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


You will need to do the following to access the journal articles:

Go to the Library Circulation Desk with your valid El Camino College Student Identification Card and register as a current library user. This will grant you login validation and access to these readings.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*

Mesoamerican Perdiodization

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, *Chapter 1: Land of a Millenarian 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: *Codex Mendoza Folio 2r and 60r* (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*
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*
- "*Bureaucracy and Business in the Spanish Empire, 1759-1804: Failure of a Bourbon Reform in Mexico and Peru.*" Stanley J. Stein. *The Hispanic American Historical Review.* Vol. 61,
No. 1 (Feb., 1981)

- 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)

Porfiriato: Order and Progress at a Cost

Required Assignments/Reading/Viewing:

- Bonfil Batalla, Chapter 7: Our Modern Times

- Tuñón Pablos, Chapter 4: Peace in Porfrian 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