

Brunk  
Fall 2022  
History 4325/5377  
Junior/Senior Seminar  
The Mexican Revolution

Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30  
and by appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The primary task of students in this course will be to complete a research paper on some aspect of modern Mexican history (late nineteenth and twentieth centuries). That history centers in great part on the causes, process, and consequences of the Mexican Revolution, but also on the ways in which Mexico has wrestled with national identity, state formation, modernity, development, and issues of race, ethnicity, class, and gender. The required research paper will be from fifteen to twenty pages in length (excluding footnotes and bibliography) and based on both substantial research in primary sources and a solid understanding of the appropriate secondary sources. Students will also read and discuss a series of books and articles, which will provide them with examples of how to conduct, interpret, and present their research as well as some of the necessary historiographical background. By the end of the course, students will become familiar with the broad sweep of modern Mexican history and produce research papers that demonstrate their expertise on a particular facet of that history. They will develop their oral and written communication skills, as well as their ability to do research in primary sources.

**GRADING:** Final grades for this course will be based on two short research exercises, one short essay, a prospectus, the final oral presentation of research, the research paper, and class participation. Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Research Exercises	10% (5% each)
Short Essay on Article/Book Chapters	15%
Prospectus	10%
Final Presentation of Research	10%
Final Research Paper	35%
Class Participation	20%

The participation grade will be based on your attendance, your participation in class discussions, the timely completion of reading questions and the series of short assignments that lead up to the research paper, and two reviews of the writing of one of your peers.

Graduate Students will be required to write a somewhat longer research paper, of 20-30 pages, as well as complete all other tasks. They may also be asked to take a leadership role in particular class discussions. Their grades will be calculated as follows.

Research Exercises	5% (5% each)
Short Essay on Article/Book Chapters	15%
Prospectus	5%
Final Presentation of Research	5%
Final Research Paper	50%
Class Participation	20%

**No extra credit** will be offered in this course. Students hoping to raise their grades should talk to the professor about how to improve on the work assigned, and in particular about how to produce a strong final research paper. **Improvement will be rewarded** in determining final grades (but only for those students who regularly attend class and complete assignments on time).

**BLACKBOARD:** Handouts and other materials will be distributed through Blackboard. Please do not try to contact me through the Blackboard email system, however, since I rarely check it. Email me at my regular UTEP email address, sbrunk@utep.edu.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** You are generally expected to attend class and your participation grade depends, in part, on your attendance. Absences due to scheduled university activities, health problems, or serious family emergencies (such as the illness of a child or a death in the family) will be excused, but in most cases you need to document them with a note from an appropriate professional (such as a physician or funeral director). If for any reason you must miss a class period, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor and obtain handouts (from Blackboard) and notes (from a fellow student).

You are also expected to arrive on time and stay until the end of each class period. It is better to come in late or leave early than not to come at all, but do not make a habit of it. Arrange your life so you can attend this class. If you must come in late, avoid disrupting the class.

It is your responsibility to turn in assignments on the day they are due.

Although there is evidence that taking notes by hand may be better, you may use a computer to take notes if you choose, but turn off your cell phones and all other devices when you enter the classroom, except when using them to access class materials. This will make it easier for you to remain in your seat rather than leaving the room to answer the phone. (Of course, if you have a potential emergency, let me know and I will gladly make an exception).

**CORONAVIRUS:** The coronavirus situation continues to be fluid, so instructions might change later in the semester. **Under no circumstances should you come to class (or to campus) if you have tested positive for COVID-19, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.** We are on the honor system in this respect, which means that your absence will be excused without a note if you simply let me know, as soon as possible, that this is the reason for it.

The best way to protect yourself from serious illness is to get vaccinated. If you still need the vaccine, or need a booster, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

Despite what is at present a high infection rate in El Paso, most people are clearly tired of wearing masks. You will notice, however, that I am wearing one, which makes

good sense to me given my age and health concerns. I also worry about students who may have health issues or live with elderly relatives, and that creates classroom challenges, particularly since this class demands a great deal of group discussion. As I am sure you know, while masks can help protect you, they are even more useful in protecting the people around you from a disease that you can pass even if you don't know you have it. In any event, we will have to do the best we can under difficult circumstances, so please email me to let me know if you are among those who remain concerned about avoiding covid. I will try to bring masks to class for any student who needs one.

Free testing is available at the Student Health Center. Please report a positive COVID-19 test to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu) so our COVID Action Team can follow up with you and with me.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author or fellow student without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for citing your sources as indicated by the instructor and, in cases where you directly quote from a source, for enclosing those words that are not your own in quotation marks. Failing to give proper credit to your sources in these ways is academic dishonesty. You are also responsible for adhering to the instructor's rules on exams. I will refer all suspected incidences of academic dishonesty to the office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation. Students found guilty of such actions will be punished. See UTEP policy on this issue at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>. For some tips on avoiding plagiarism, see: [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/\\_Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/_Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf).

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in the Student Union Building East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). Only CASS Staff can authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

**FRANCES G. HARPER STUDENT HISTORY CONFERENCE:** Several students from this course, along with students from other History 4325 classes, will be nominated to present their research papers at this annual conference for history undergraduates, which will be held on dead day, December 2, 2022. Papers will be selected for their quality, based on the same criteria to be used in grading them: depth and creativity of research, clarity of argument and presentation, and originality. The best papers from the conference will win cash awards and all attendees will receive a light breakfast and lunch. All class members are expected to attend at least one session. More information on the conference will be made available during the semester.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Zachary Schrag, *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research*

Gilbert Joseph and Jurgen Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution: Social*

*Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century*

John Reed, *Insurgent Mexico*

Rick A. López, "The Noche Mexicana and the Exhibition of Popular Arts: Two Ways of Exalting Indianness," from *The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940*, ed. Mary Kay Vaughan and Stephen E. Lewis (2006)

Gabriela Cano, "Unconcealable Realities of Desire: Amelio Robles's (Transgender) Masculinity in the Mexican Revolution," from *Sex in Revolution: Gender, Politics, and Power in Modern Mexico*, ed. Jocelyn Olcott, Mary Kay Vaughan, and Gabriela Cano (2006)

Mary Kay Vaughan, "Women School Teachers in the Mexican Revolution: The Story of Reyna's Braids," *Journal of Women's History* 2 (1990): 143-168

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Aug 23 Review of Syllabus and Introductions

25 Workshop on UTEP Library Online Resources with Claudia Rivers (Meet at 1:30 in library, room 204A)  
READING: Schrag, pp. 1-35

30 Tour of library archival and microfilm resources with Claudia Rivers (Meet at 1:30 in McNeeley Room, sixth floor of library)  
READING: Schrag, 172-207

Sept 1 READING: Joseph and Buchenau, pp. ix-85  
**DUE: Readings Questions**

Sept 6 READING: Joseph and Buchenau, pp. 86-139  
**DUE: Readings Questions**

8 Primary Source Analysis  
READING: Schrag, 39-51, 65-90  
**DUE: List of Possible Research Topics**

13 READING: Joseph and Buchenau, pp. 141-215  
**DUE: Readings Questions; First Research Exercise**

15 Primary Source Analysis  
READING: Schrag, 101-171  
**DUE: Annotated List of Primary Sources**

20 READING: *Insurgent Mexico* to p. 148  
**DUE: Readings Questions; Second Research Exercise**

22 Primary Source Analysis

READING: Schrag, 90-99

**DUE: Annotated List of Secondary Sources, Discussion of Historiographical Issues**

27 READING: Finish Reed  
**DUE: Readings Questions**

29 Discussion of Projects with Peers  
READING: Schrag, 54-64, 227-242  
**DUE: Research Theses or Questions**

Oct 4 READING: Vaughan  
**DUE: Motivate, Situate, Evidence, Illustrate assignment**

Oct 6 Initial Presentations of Topics, Sources, and Theses  
READING: Schrag, 276-308  
**DUE: Outline of Research Paper**

11 READING: Cano  
**DUE: Readings Questions; Prospectus (graded)**

13 READING: López; Schrag, 341-376  
**DUE: Readings Questions**

18 Meetings with Individual Students; Individual Work on Projects

20 Meetings with Individual Students; Individual Work on Projects  
**DUE: Short Essay on Article and Book Chapters (graded)**

25 Meetings with Individual Students; Individual Work on Projects

27 Meetings with Individual Students; Individual Work on Projects

Nov 1 Editing, Formatting, and Citing; Peer Editing Session  
**DUE: Draft, First Five Pages of Research Paper**

3 Preparing Presentations; Discussion of Peer Editing Process  
**DUE: Peer Reviews of Drafts of First Five Pages**

8 Peer Editing Session  
**DUE: Full First Draft of Research Paper**

10 Presentations  
**DUE: Peer Reviews of First Drafts**

15 Presentations

17 Presentations

22 Presentations

24 **NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING**

29 Presentations

Dec 1 Presentations

8 **DUE:** Final Paper, 5:00 p.m.