

History 5377
Spring 2023
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SEMINAR IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY: MODERN MEXICO

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: The primary task of students in this course will be to complete a major research paper on some aspect of twentieth century Mexican (or borderlands) history. This paper should be at least twenty-five pages in length--excluding endnotes and bibliography--and be based both on substantial research in primary sources and a solid understanding of pertinent secondary sources. Students will also read and discuss one book and a series of articles and book chapters, which will provide them with models 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 be 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 the research paper, a short essay on the readings we do collectively, an oral presentation of your research, and class participation. Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Research paper	55%
Short essay	15%
Final Presentation of Research	10%
Class Participation	20%

The short essay will be a paper of six or seven pages on the articles and book chapters assigned to the class as a whole. The class participation grade will be based on attendance, timely completion of the series of short assignments that lead students through the research process, and participation in class discussions. Each student will be required to lead discussion of at least one article or book chapter.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to attend class (and to be there on time). This is especially essential in graduate courses, and class participation grades are naturally tied, in part, to attendance. Students who miss a class period for any reason will be required to write an additional paper of at least 1500 words, due the following week, summarizing the main points of the missed week's reading. It is your responsibility to speak to the instructor about that additional assignment and any instructions or handouts you might have missed. Students are also responsible for turning in assignments on time; late papers will be penalized.

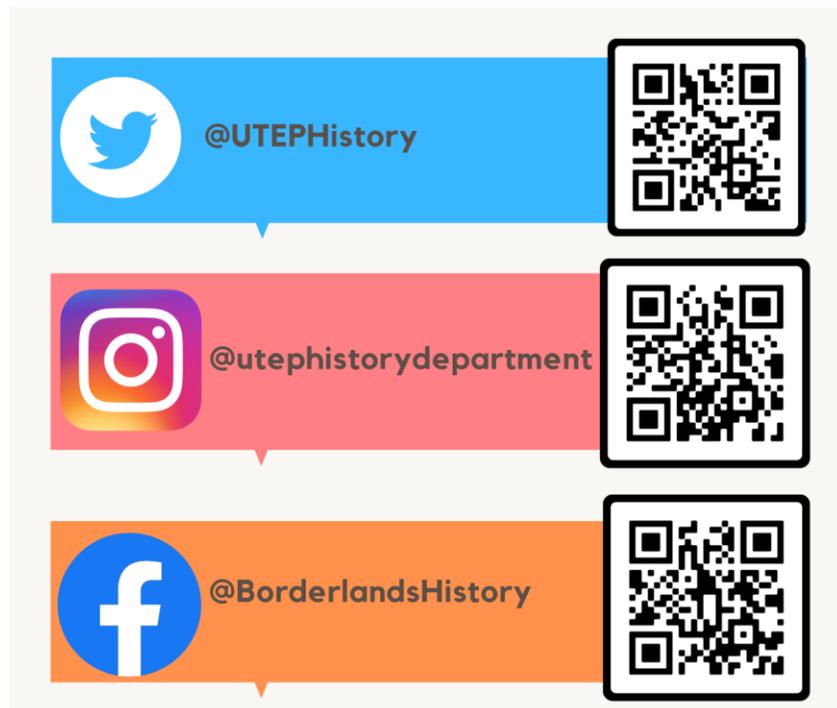
ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author or fellow student without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for

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.

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, or visit their office located in the Student Union Building East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>. Only CASS Staff can authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

COMMUNICATION: 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. You may email me at any time at my UTEP email address, sbrunk@utep.edu, which I check frequently (though not late at night). Be sure to use your UTEP email account when you do so. I will generally reply quickly, but if you do not receive a reply in 24 hours, please email me again in case I somehow didn't receive the first one. I may communicate with the class through the Announcement tool on Blackboard, so you should check there frequently for updates and reminders, though those announcements will also come to your UTEP email address.

Please also follow the History Department via the following social media:



REQUIRED READINGS:

- Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*
- Gilbert Joseph and Jurgen Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution: Social Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century* (2013)
- Mauricio Tenorio Trillo, "1910 Mexico City: Space and Nation in the City of the *Centenario*," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 28 (1996)
- Helga Baitenmann, "Popular Participation in State Formation: Land Reform in Revolutionary Mexico," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 43 (2011)
- Rick A. López, "The Noche Mexicana and the Exhibition of Popular Arts: Two Ways of Exalting Indianness," in *The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940*, ed. Mary Kay Vaughan and Stephen E. Lewis (2006)
- Marco Antonio Samaniego López, "Valle Imperial/valle de Mexicali, 1910–28: su impacto en la cuenca del río Colorado y la disputa por los usos sociales," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 38 (2022)
- Ann S. Blum, "Speaking of Work and Family: Reciprocity, Child Labor, and Social Reproduction, Mexico City, 1920–1940," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 91 (2011)
- Gabriela Cano, "Unconcealable Realities of Desire: Amelio Robles's (Transgender) Masculinity in the Mexican Revolution," in *Sex in Revolution: Gender, Politics, and Power in Modern Mexico*, ed. Jocelyn Olcott, Mary Kay Vaughan, and Gabriela Cano (2006)
- Emily Wakild, "Border Chasm: International Boundary Parks and Mexican Conservation, 1935-1945," *Environmental History* 14 (2009)
- Gema Kloppe-Santamaría, "Lynching and the Politics of State Formation in Post-Revolutionary Puebla (1930s–50s)," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 51 (2019)
- Benjamin T. Smith, "The Paradoxes of the Public Sphere: Journalism, Gender, and Corruption in Mexico, 1940-1970," *Journal of Social History* 52 (2019)
- David Yee, "Shantytown Mexico: The Democratic Opening in Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl, 1969–1976," *The Americas* 78 (2021)

The latest edition of Turabian is available in the bookstore, but any relatively recent edition will suffice for this class. Gilbert Joseph and Jurgen Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution* is available at the bookstore or on reserve in the library. The articles and book chapters are available on Blackboard.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan 17 Course organization, sources, and introductory remarks

Jan 24 **READING:** Joseph and Buchenau

Jan 31 **DUE:** List of two possible research topics
READING: Tenorio Trillo, Baitenmann

Feb 7 **READING:** López, Samaniego López (for those who read Spanish)

- Feb 14 **DUE:** List of primary sources for your preferred topic
READING: Blum, Cano
- Feb 21 **DUE:** List of related secondary sources, with discussion of historiographical issues
READING: Wakild, Kloppe-Santamaría
- Feb 28 **DUE:** Research theses/hypotheses, with discussion of methodology
READING: Smith, Yee
- Mar 7 Meetings with individual students; individual Work on Projects
DUE: Short essay on articles
- Mar 14 **SPRING BREAK**
- Mar 21 Meetings with individual students; individual work on projects
DUE: Outline of research paper
- Mar 28 Meetings with individual students; individual work on projects
- Apr 4 Meetings with individual students; individual work on projects
- Apr 11 Meetings with individual students; individual work on projects
- Apr 18 **DUE:** Draft of research paper, not a rough draft
- Apr 25 **DUE:** Comments on colleagues' papers
Oral reports on research
- May 2 Oral reports on research
- May 9 **DUE:** Final draft of research papers, 5:00 p.m.