

## History 5309/6309: Studies in Latin American History

Modern Mexico

Fall 2023

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Office Hours: TR 12-1, T 9:15-10:15, and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** The primary aim of this course is to acquaint students with some of the basic works and issues of the historiography of twentieth-century Mexico. At the center of that historiography is the Mexican Revolution and the ways in which it has shaped subsequent Mexican history. Students in this course will read works that discuss the “epic revolution”—the fighting stage—from 1910-1920; the revolution’s subsequent institutionalization; the “Mexican miracle,” which was essentially Mexico’s industrial revolution, after 1940; and the infamous massacre at Tlatelolco in 1968 and the challenges that followed it. In the process, we will explore general political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental trends, as well as specific topics.

**GRADING:** Final grades will be based on five written assignments and class participation. The first four written assignments will be essays on weekly readings. Each week I will distribute a question about the following week’s readings. Students may choose whether or not to answer that question for any given week, but **must answer a total of four questions during the semester** in essays of at least 2000 words. Each of these weekly papers will focus on that particular week’s readings, but you will also be expected to incorporate relevant material from earlier readings and class discussions (and questions will often directly ask you to do so). In other words, these papers will become more challenging as the weeks go by. These weekly papers should be uploaded to Blackboard by the start of class on the day for which the readings are assigned; they will be returned the following week.

The last written assignment is a final paper of about 3000 words in which you will answer a question or questions that will require you to synthesize the material covered during the semester.

Expectations for class participation will include leading one class discussion sometime during the course of the semester.

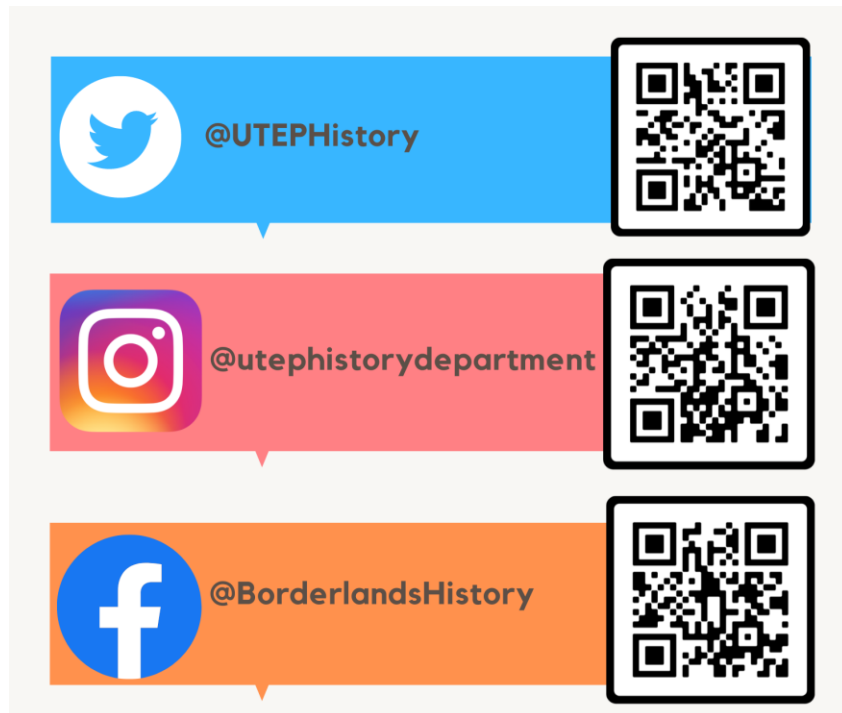
Grades will be calculated as follows:

Weekly papers	60% (15% each)
Final paper	20%
Participation:	20%

**COMMUNICATION:** Please email me at my regular email address, [sbrunk@utep.edu](mailto:sbrunk@utep.edu), which works better than Blackboard course messaging. I will generally reply quickly, but if you don’t receive a reply in 24 hours please email me again in case I somehow missed the first one. I will sometimes 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.

You may also want to follow the History Department via the following social media:



**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 (this will be in addition to the four weekly papers described above, and **you may not turn in one of those four papers for a week in which you do not attend class**). It is your responsibility to speak to me about that additional assignment and any handouts or general instructions you might have missed. Students are also responsible for turning in assignments on time. Weekly papers will be accepted late only in extraordinary circumstances; late final papers will be penalized.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for citing your sources 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. All suspected incidences of academic dishonesty will be referred immediately 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 <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>. Only CASS can determine the accommodations you might need.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** The readings are listed below. The books are all available at the bookstore and, less expensively, from online booksellers. Some are also on reserve in the library or available electronically through the UTEP library catalog if you prefer to use them in that form, but in both cases availability may be limited so if you choose one of these options please work ahead. The two works of Alan Knight are available in a file on Blackboard.

Alan Knight, "Peasant and Caudillo in Revolutionary Mexico," from *Caudillo and Peasant in the Mexican Revolution*, ed. David Brading (1980)

Alan Knight, "Popular Culture and the Revolutionary State in Mexico, 1910-1940," from *Hispanic American Historical Review* 74:3 (1994)

Claudio Lomnitz, *The Return of Comrade Flores Magón*

Helga Baitenmann, *Matters of Justice: Pueblos, the Judiciary, and Agrarian Reform in Revolutionary Mexico*

Sarah Osten, *The Mexican Revolution's Wake: The Making of a Political System, 1920–1929*

Susie Porter, *From Angel to Office Worker: Middle-Class Identity and Female Consciousness in Mexico, 1890–1950*

Tanalís Padilla, *Unintended Lessons of Revolution: Student Teachers and Political Radicalism in Twentieth-Century Mexico*

Tore Olsson, *Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the U.S. and Mexican Countryside*

Thomas Rath, *Myths of Demilitarization in Postrevolutionary Mexico, 1920-1960*

Rick López, *Crafting Mexico: Intellectuals, Artisans, and the State after the Revolution*

Renata Keller, *Mexico's Cold War: Cuba, the United States, and the Legacy of the Mexican Revolution*

Jaime Pensado, *Rebel Mexico: Student Unrest and Authoritarian Political Culture During the Long Sixties*

Sandra C. Mendiola García, *Street Democracy: Vendors, Violence, and Public Space in Late Twentieth-Century Mexico*

For solid undergraduate-level surveys of Mexican history that may be helpful to those of you with little background on the subject of this class, refer to Michael Meyer, Susan Deeds, and William Sherman, *The Course of Mexican History* (any edition will do) and/or Gilbert Joseph and Jürgen Buchenau, *Mexico's One and Future Revolution*. Copies of both are on reserve, but the latter is only found under Hist. 3350.

## Course Schedule

Aug 31 Introductory Remarks and Course Organization

Sept 7 The Revolution: Origins and Borderlands Elements

**READING:** Lomnitz, *The Return of Comrade Flores Magón*, pp. xi-283.

Sept 14 The Revolution: Origins, Motives, and General Nature

**READING:** Lomnitz, *The Return of Comrade Flores Magón*, pp. 286-526; Knight, "Peasant and Caudillo"

Sept 21 Revolutionary Land Reform

**READING:** Baitenmann, *Matters of Justice*

Sept 28 Revolutionary Politics in southern Mexico

**READING:** Osten, *The Mexican Revolution's Wake*

Oct 5 Gender and Revolution

**READING:** Porter, *From Angel to Office Worker*

Oct 12 Education in the Countryside

**READING:** Padilla, *Unintended Lessons of Revolution*

Oct 19 Transnational Agrarianism

**READING:** Olsson, *Agrarian Crossings*

Oct 26 The Military in the Institutionalizing Revolution

**READING:** Rath, *Myths of Demilitarization*

Nov 2 Indians, Artisans, Culture, Nation and State

**READING:** López, *Crafting Mexico*, to p. 150; Alan Knight, "Popular Culture and the Revolutionary State"

Nov 9 More Indians, Artisans, Culture, Nation and State

**READING:** López, *Crafting Mexico*, 151 to end

Nov 16 Mexico and the Cuban Revolution

**READING:** Keller, *Mexico's Cold War*

Nov 23 **Thanksgiving, no class**

Nov 30 Urban Resistance and Tlatelolco

**READING:** Pensado, *Rebel Mexico*

Dec 7 Economics, Politics, and Space Post-Tlatelolco  
**READING:** Mendiola García, *Street Democracy*

Dec 14 Final Paper Due, 5:00 p.m.