

HIST 4359
MEXICAN CULTURAL HISTORY

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours: M/W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will provide thematic coverage of Mexican cultural history from the pre-Colombian era to the present through classroom instruction combined with a one-week immersion experience in Guanajuato, Mexico. Background information will be covered thoroughly in formal lectures and other activities in an organized classroom setting on UTD campus in the early weeks of the program. Students will then experience living history interactively through structured tours and other activities during a week-long stay in Guanajuato. Themes covered by the course will include: art and visual culture, the historic role of religion, economic development viewed through mining culture and architecture/infrastructure, and the historic evolution of the legacy of independence.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of Mexican cultural and society from the pre-Colombian era to the present through written, oral, and creative expressions.
- Students will express a more profound understanding of the role of material and popular culture in Mexican history through their immersion and interactive experience in Mexico.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to connect concepts introduced in a classroom setting (lectures, readings, etc.) to the living history that is observable through the one-week immersion in Mexico.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Recommended Textbook:

Brian Hamnett, *A Concise History of Mexico*. 2nd Edition (Cambridge University Press, 006) ISBN: 0521618029.

Justino Fernandez, *A Guide to Mexican Art*. English Translation (University of Chicago Press, 1969) ISBN: 0226244210

Guillermo Bonafil Batalla, *Mexico Profundo* (University of Texas Press, 1996) ISBN: 0292708432

Jeffrey Pilcher, *Que Vivan los Tamales! Food and the Making of Mexican Identity* (University of New Mexico Press, 1998) ISBN: 0826318738

Readings packet of additional material available through electronic reserve at McDermott Library may be assigned at the instructor's discretion.

GRADING POLICY

The grading in this course is based on discussions/participation, weekly notes, a Mexico/travel journal, and a final project. The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

Attendance/Participation	100 points
Weekly Reading Journals	100 points
Daily Mexico Journals	100 points
Final Project	200 points
Total	500 points

COURSE & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

No late assignments will be accepted and there is no make-up policy for in-class work. I will NOT accept final versions of any assignments as e-mail attachments.

All assignments for this class are mandatory. Materials used in this course have been carefully selected for their scholarly value, but some audiences may take offense at topics of a sensitive nature. There will be NO substitutions of readings, films, documents, presentations, and/or other course requirements to suit personal preferences. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.

ASSIGNMENTS

Class Participation: This is a discussion and participation-heavy course and all students are expected to participate in class discussions, field activities, etc. During formal class meetings, both at UTD Campus and in Guanajuato, students must actively engage in class discussions. Those discussions will focus on the topics introduced in lecture, field trips, and relevant readings. Please arrive to class ready to participate in class discussions. You may refer to your daily journal reports during these discussions. Field trip assignments in Guanajuato also require active engagement by students. These will provide opportunities to experience history first-hand and to form a strategy for completing the final project.

Weekly Reading Journals: You will prepare a weekly journal report for each non-textbook reading assignment in this course prior to departing for Guanajuato. Each response should provide a brief summary followed by your historical/cultural analysis of the readings assigned. Weekly journals should be typed and uploaded to TURNITIN.com by the beginning of the class period on the date the assignment is due. **TURNITIN.com course ID: 2140021; course password: tamales.**

Daily Mexico Journal: During the week-long field trip to Guanajuato, you will write a daily journal based on your thoughts and experiences that day. The focus of this journal should be processing the living history based on the foundational knowledge you have acquired in readings and other classroom activities. The Mexico journal may be either typed or handwritten. It must be turned in at the end of the Guanajuato trip.

NOTE: I do NOT accept late work of any kind except in the most extreme emergencies. I will NOT accept e-mail attachments for final versions of journal entries or exams. Students **MUST** turn in journals **BEFORE** class starts to TURNITIN.com. Any journals submitted after the deadline will be considered late and will not be counted as complete.

Final Project: For the final project in this course, you may work individually or in pairs and prepare an oral presentation on a theme or topic of your choice that relates to activities from the field trip to Guanajuato. This presentation may be creative or scholarly in nature. Presentations will be given in a public forum during finals week at the end of the semester.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

The following schedule outlines the topics and reading assignments for each class. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes made to the schedule and/or any other course requirements will be announced in class and will be posted on the course website: www.utdallas.edu/~mrarkin.

Week 1 January 10	Introduction to Mexico
Week 2 January 17	Pre-Colombian Civilizations
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #1 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , ppvii-xxi and Chapter 1 <i>Tamales</i> , Introduction <i>Art</i> , Introduction
Textbook:	Chapter 1
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1
Week 3 January 24	The Spanish Conquest
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #2 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 2 <i>Tamales</i> , Chapter 1 <i>Art</i> , Chapter 1
Textbook:	Chapter 2
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapter 2
Week 4 January 31	Colonial Period
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #3 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 3 <i>Art</i> , Chapter 2 pp53-71
Textbook:	Chapter 3
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapter 3
Week 5 February 7	Independence
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #4 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 4 <i>Tamales</i> , Chapter 2 <i>Art</i> , Chapter 2 pp72-109
Textbook:	Chapter 4
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapters 4 & 5
Week 6 February 14	Nineteenth Century and Porfiriato

Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #5 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 5 <i>Art</i> , Chapter 2 pp110-122
Textbook:	Chapter 5, Part 1
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapter 6
Week 7 February 21	Mexican Revolution
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #6 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 6 <i>Tamales</i> , Chapter 3 <i>Art</i> , Chapter 3
Textbook:	Chapter 5, Part 2 & Chapter 6, Part 1
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapters 7 & 8
Week 8 February 28	Mexico in the Twentieth Century
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #7 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 7 <i>Tamales</i> , Chapter 4 <i>Art</i> , Chapter 4
Textbook:	Chapter 6, Part 2
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapter 9
Week 9 March 6	Field Trip Prep
Readings:	Weekly Journal Assignment #8 due today <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapter 8 <i>Tamales</i> , Chapters 5 & 6
Textbook:	Chapters 7 & 8
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Chapters 10 & 11
March 8-15	Field Trip Itinerary will be distributed in class
Readings:	Be prepared to discuss: <i>México Profundo</i> , Chapters 9 & 10 <i>Tamales</i> , Chapter 7 Textbook, Chapter 9
Optional:	<i>Death</i> , Conclusion
Note: Final projects must be approved by the end of the Mexico field trip. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of the project grade by one full letter grade.	

April 1-15

FINAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT/STUDENT MEETINGS

Each student must schedule at least one meeting with the professor during the first two weeks of April to give a progress report on the status of the final project. The meeting for the project progress report must be scheduled by April 1 and must take place by April 15.

**May 1
2:00-5:00**

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

The Guanajuato field trip planned for this course is mandatory. All materials distributed in class related to the trip should be considered supplemental information to the course syllabus. In the case of extreme emergency, if a student is not able to attend the field trip other arrangements may be made with the instructor.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

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These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.