

History 3307: 001/Pre-Columbian and Colonial Mexico/Course Syllabus/Spring 2015
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Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the sweeping epic of Mexican history from its pre-Columbian origins through the Spanish Colonial era and ending with the Mexican War for Independence in 1821.

Course Requirements

The requirements for this course include the following:

1. Regular class attendance. The majority of the information for the subject matter will be presented in class.
2. There will be four exams in this course. All four exams are required and there will be no exemptions for the final (the fourth exam) exam; with the exception of those people who are maintaining an A average after three exams. Each exam will include material presented in the lecture as well as material from the two books.

Course Readings

Knight, Alan. Mexico: From the Beginning to the Spanish Conquest, Cambridge University Press, 2002, ISBN # 0-521-89195-7

Knight, Alan. Mexico: The Colonial Era, Cambridge University Press, 2002. ISBN # 0-521-89196-5.

Restall, Mathew. Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest. Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN # 978-0-19-517611-7.

Socolow, Susan Migden, The Women of Colonial Latin America, by Susan Socolow. Cambridge University Press, 2000. ISBN# 978-0-521-47642-3

Course Outline

There will be four blocks of instruction. At the end of each block of instruction we will have an exam. The date of each exam will be announced one week in advance. You are responsible for all information given out in class. There will be no makeup exams.

Chronological Outline

January 20-introduction to course/Mesoamerican overview

January 22--Mesoamerica

January 27-the Olmec

January 29-the Maya

February 03-the Maya

February 05-Teotihuacan/the Toltec

February 10-the Aztecs

February 12-the Aztecs

February 17-Exam # 1

February 19-Spain

February 24-Spain

February 26-the Spanish Conquest of Mexico

March 03-the Spanish Conquest of Mexico

March 05-Exam # 2

March 10-the Colonial Economy

March 12-the Colonial Economy

March 17 and 19-spring break—no class.

March 24-Colonial Race Relations

March 26-Colonial Race Relations

March 31-Colonial Society

April 02-Women and the Family

April 07-the Borderlands

April 09-the Borderlands

April 14-Comparisn with Colonial Latin America

April 16-Exam # 3

April 21-the Bourbon Reforms

April 23-the Bourbon Reforms

Apr. 28-the Mexican War for Independence

April 30-the Mexican War for Independence

May 05-The Colonial Heritage of Latin America

May 12-final exam.

Block One: Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica

In this block of instruction we will cover the history of Mesoamerica before 1519 and the History of Spain before 1492. We will examine the agrarian origins of Mesoamerican civilization, the Olmec, Zapotec, Mayan, Teotihuacan, Toltec, and Aztec civilizations. For this exam please read “Mexico: From the Beginnings to the Spanish Conquest” to page 191; and “The Women of Colonial Latin America” chapters 1 and 2.

Block Two: Mexico and the Spanish Conquest

In this block of instruction we will cover the pastoral, agricultural, Roman, Jewish, Islamic, and Christian influences on the history of Iberian civilization. Also included is the Age of Exploration, the Spanish Conquest of the Caribbean, and the Conquest of Mexico from 1492 through the 1580s. We will examine the early Spanish colonial institutions and the demographic and environmental impact of the Spanish Conquest.

For this exam please read “Mexico: From the beginnings, pp. 193-240 and Mexico the Colonial Era pp. 1-72; and “The Women” chapters 3 and 4; and Mathew Restall’s “Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest”.

Block Three: Colonial New Spain 1580s through the 1750s

In this block of instruction we will cover colonial Mexican society.

For this exam please read “Mexico: The Colonial Era” pp. 72-200; 5-8 and “The Women” chapters 5-10.

Block Four: The Emergence of the Mexican Nation 1750s-1821

In this block of instruction we will cover late colonial society, the crisis of the imperial order, and the Wars for Independence.

For this exam please read “Mexico: The Colonial Era pp. 200-331; and “The Women chapter 11.

Terms and Concepts to Identify for Exam # 1/ Pre-Columbian Mexico

Concepts to Identify

1. How has geography shaped Mexican history? Please be able to define the major geographic, cultural, and ethno-linguistic regions of Mexico?
2. Why do we refer to the Olmec as the “Mother Civilization” of Mexico? What were some of the major features of Olmec civilization?
3. What are some of the major features of the Mayan civilization? What are some of the defining features of the Classic Era? What are some of the possible reasons for the Great Maya Collapse, 850-900 A.C.E.?
4. What are some of the major features of the civilizations of Teotihuacan and the Toltecs? What are some of the reasons for their successes and subsequent declines?
5. What are some of the major features of the Aztec Civilization and Empire? What ideological and political forces explain the Aztecs’ rise to power?
6. Using Susan Socolow’s history of women, how did women’s status differ between Spain, Latin America, and Africa, prior to the meetings of the four continents? How were they similar? Is gender a useful historical tool in analyzing past societies and cultures? (Chapters one and two)

Terms to Identify

Mesoamerica, The Yucatan, The Sierra Madre Occidental, The Sierra Madre Oriental, The Valley of Mexico, The Chihuahua Desert, The Olmec, La Venta, Tres Zapotes, San Lorenzo, The Archaic Era, The Formative Period, The Classic Era, The Post-classic era, The Maya, Palenque, Tikal, Copan, Chichen Itza, Popul Vuh, Chinampas, Milpas, The Mayan Calendar, Teotihuacan, Quetzalcoatl, Tlaloc, The Toltecs, The Mexica/Aztec, Aztlan, Huitzolopochtli, Tenochtitlan, Calpulli, Potchteca, The Tlatoque, The Triple Alliance, Tlaxcala, Montezuma II.

Terms and Concepts to Identify for Exam # 2/ Spain and the Spanish Conquest of Mexico

Concepts to Identify.

1. What are some of the major features of Iberian civilization? What impact did the Romans have on Iberian civilization? What role did Mediterranean civilizations, people, cultures, and religions play in the formation of Spain's history? Be able to discuss the Romans, Visigoths, Arab-Islamic, Sephardi Jewish, and Roman Catholic influences?
2. How did the Reconquista shape the emergence of Catholic Spain and the union of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand? How did the institution of the Spanish Inquisition shape Spain's history and culture?
3. How did a few hundred Spaniards conquer an empire as large as the Aztecs and its capital city of Tenochtitlan which was by all accounts one of the largest cities in the world (possibly holding some 250,000 people)? We examined four interpretations of that Conquest; the first being religious fatalism (Cortez as the return of Quetzacoatl); the second being that of superior Spanish military technology and war-fighting capabilities (guns and horses); the third being that of complex ethnic and political fractures in Mexican society that Cortez was able to utilize to his advantage (the Mayan and Tlaxcalans for instance); and the fourth, the disease factor (smallpox etc). In a well thought out essay, which do you believe accounts for the Spanish Conquest of Mexico, or do you think it may have been a combination of some or all of the above?
4. What do we (historians) mean by the term "the Colombian Exchange"? How did the transfer of Eastern Civilization plants animals and disease play a critical role in the Spanish and subsequently European Conquests of Mexico and the world? Please provide some specific examples from each category. Likewise, how did the transfer of plants, animals, and diseases from the Western Hemisphere transform people and regions of the rest of the World?
5. What do we mean by "Spiritual Conquest of Mexico"? What role did religious beliefs and institutions play in this historical drama? How was the Spanish "discovery" of the Americas interpreted by the Spanish Church and the significance of the year 1492 as a watershed year in the dispensation of the Church Age? How did Spanish clergymen attempt to Christianize the Mexican Indians? How did Mexican Indians maintain many of their spiritual beliefs and customs in their conversion to Roman Catholicism? What role did the emergence of the Virgin of Guadalupe play in this historical process and what do we mean by religious syncretism?
6. How did the Conquest of Mexico and the America's impact indigenous women? How did women's situations differ from that of men's? Why did the Catholic Church and the Spanish government encourage Iberian women to migrate to the America's? How did women serve as the transmitters of Indian cultures to the Spaniards and Iberian culture to the Indians?

Terms to identify

Iberia, The Romans, The Visigoths, The Moors, Al-Andalusia, El Cid, La Reconquista, The Sephardim, Ferdinand and Isabella, The Spanish Inquisition, Encomienda, Montezuma II, La Noche Triste, Tenochtitlan, Hernando Cortez, Quetzalcoatl, The Year of the Reed-1519, Tonatzin, the Virgin of Guadalupe, Juan Diego, Princess Malintzin-La Malinche, The Twelve, The Triple Alliance, The Tlaxcalans, Pedro Alvarado, Nuno de Guzman, Bartolome de Las Casas,

Terms and Concepts to Identify for Exam # 3/ Colonial Mexico 1521-1700

Concepts to Identify

1. How did labor systems imposed on the Indigenous Mexicans change over the course of the 16th and 17th centuries? What was the *encomienda*? What was the *repartameinto*? Were these forms or systems of slavery? Why did the *encomienda* system?
2. How did the great landed estates of Mexico develop? How did the *Hacienda* system develop? How did plantations and the plantation system differ from that of the *hacienda*?
3. What impact did mining have on colonial Mexican society, the economy, settlement patterns, race relations, technological development, and political system?
4. How did the Spanish colonial order impact the Indigenous population? How did the Spanish Crown and Church come to terms with Indian societies and how these societies would integrate themselves into the Hispanic world (complete assimilation, a single society, or a dual society)? What was the demographic impact of the disease epidemics during the first two centuries? How did Indians attempt to protect and maintain their lands, cultures, and political systems?
5. How did women's lives differ in colonial Mexican society; in the social expectations and conditions between elite women, working class women, Indian women, and women bound in slavery? Although the conditions for these various women differed, they were also somewhat similar? How did patriarchal systems of dominance affect women of all social classes and status? Finally, how did colonial society and religious systems view women in the realm of social deviance and witchcraft?

Terms to identify

Encomienda, *repartamiento*, *hacienda*, plantations, *obrajes*, *ranchos*, *Vicereoyalty*, Council of the Indies, *oidor*, *cabildo*, *ayuntamiento*, *alcalde*, The Republic of the Indians

Terms and Concepts to identify for Exam # 4/ Colonial Mexico and the War for Independence 1700-1821

1. What impact did the Bourbon dynasty and the Bourbon Reforms have on Colonial Mexico, 1700-1810? Why did the Bourbons initiate these reforms? What were their major characteristics? How did these reforms alienate a growing number of Criollos and lead to the genesis of modern Mexican nationalism? What impact did the Enlightenment have on these movements?
2. How were ethnic and caste relations structured in Colonial Mexican society? How did these caste/ethnic relations give way to the growing importance of class as a determining factor in colonial society and economy? Did discrimination and racial prejudice continue even though class replaced caste? What do I mean when I use the term “pigmentocracy” to describe Mexican and Latin American race relations?
3. How did the Napoleonic invasion of Spain dramatically change the relationship between Spain and its Latin American colonies? How did a “crisis of imperial legitimacy” develop in the relationship between Latin America’s (and Mexico) colonies with that of Spain? How did the rise of Criollo nationalism shape this response?
4. Why was the Bajío region of colonial Mexico the geographic seat of the Independence War? How did a series of natural disasters play a role in the growing crisis of Mexico? How did the Bajío represent the most “Mestizo and Modern” region of Mexico? Who was Padre Miguel Hidalgo and how did instigate the War for Independence? How did this process unfold? Who were the major figures and events in the Mexican struggle for Independence? How and what events finally pushed Mexico towards its break with Spain in 1821?
5. When Mexico emerged as an independent nation in 1821 it shared characteristics that were both pre-Columbian and indigenous in origin and also Spanish. In many ways this made Mexico unique in its historical genesis? What is the pre-Columbian and colonial legacy of Mexico’s thousands of years of civilizational development and also Spain’s three centuries of rule in Mexico?

Terms to Identify

Bourbon Reforms, the expulsion of the Jesuits, neo-Aztecism, Padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, El Grito de Dolores, Sept. 16, 1810, Padre Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon, Napoleon Bonaparte, King Ferdinand VII, Augustine Iturbide, Vicente Guerrero, The 1812 Constitution of Cadiz, The 1820 Liberal Revolution in Spain, the Three Guarantees.