

Course Syllabus: Seminar in Precolumbian and Colonial Mexican History: History 5303: W01/WR1

Dr. Mark Saad Saka/Sul Ross State University/Spring 2015

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Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide a broad historical interpretation of Mexican History from the earliest years through the formation of Mesoamerican civilizations, the history of Medieval Spain, the Spanish Conquest, and the Colonial Era through the War of Independence 1810-1821. This is a web based seminar.

Required Readings

Cook, Noble David. *Born To Die: Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650*, Cambridge University Press. ISBN # 0-521-62730-3.

Hassig, Ross. *Mexico and the Spanish Conquest*, 2nd Edition, University of Oklahoma Press, ISBN # 0-8061-3793-2.

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

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

Restag, Matthew. *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*. Oxford University Press, ISBN # 0-195-17611-7

Socolow, Susan Migden. *The Women of Colonial Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, ISBN # 0-521-47642-9

Course Requirements

There are three core requirements for this course.

The first is to read the assignments that are due on each Monday. Write a review for the written assignments and send them to me-through the Sul Ross email. Do not worry about Blackboard. The written assignments should be from 5 to seven pages, double spaced, 12 font, one inch margins.

The second requirement is to research and write a fifteen page paper (Chicago style footnoting and format) on a research topic that covers some aspect of the Precolumbian or Colonial Mexican History. The paper topic must be approved by me before or by March 23.

The third requirement is to enjoy this course. History should not be a burden but should be interesting and intellectually stimulating.

Course Outline

January 26-Read Alan Knight: Mexico: From the Beginning to the Spanish Conquest pages 1-50

February 2-Read Alan Knight: Mexico: From the Beginning, pages 51-117

February 9-Read Alan Knight: Mexico: From the Beginning, Pages 118-192

February 16-Read Alan Knight: *Mexico: From the Beginning*, Pages 193-240 and *Mexico and the Spanish Conquest* by Ross Hassig

February 23-Read: *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest* by Matthew Restall

March 2-Read *Disease and New World Conquest* by Noble David Cook

March 9—Read Alan Knight *Mexico: The Colonial Era* pages 1-71

March 16-Read Alan Knight: *Mexico: The Colonial Era* pages 72-201

March 23-Read Alan Knight *Mexico: The Colonial Era* pages 202-282 (paper topics should be approved by this date)

March 30-Read Susan Socolow *the Women of Colonial Latin America*

April 6-Read Alan Knight *Mexico: The Colonial Era* pages 283-331

May 6-research papers due