

Course Syllabus: History 3307: 001/Precolumbian and Colonial Mexico

Fall 2020: Sul Ross State University

Dr. Mark Saad Saka

Office Hours: Lawrence Hall 208B/M, W, F. 10:00-10:45/T, Th. 11:00-11:30; 1:30-3:00

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Course Objectives: This course traces the history of Mexico from its beginnings with the earliest human migrations to the Americas through the formation of indigenous civilizations including the Olmec, Teotihuacan, the Maya, Aztecs, and other indigenous peoples of Mexico. The history of Iberian Civilizations (Spain, Portugal, etc) from the earliest human migrations to Iberia through the formation of the modern nation-state of Spain under Ferdinand and Isabella will also be covered. The Spanish Conquest of the Americas and the formation of European settler societies in Mexico and the creation of colonial order 1519-1821 will represent the second half of the course. The course will conclude with the Mexican War for Independence 1810-1821.

Required Readings

Noble David Cook; *Born To Die: Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650*. Cambridge University Press, 1998. ISBN # 0-521-62730-3

Alan Knight, *Mexico: From the Beginning to the Spanish Conquest*, Cambridge University Press, 2002, ISBN # 978-0-521-89195-0

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

Course Requirements:

1. Get to class on time and do not leave early
2. No cell-phones, texting, or other electronic communications—this course is broadcast to Midland and electronic communications can interfere with transmission.
3. Obtain and read the three books.
4. Four exams (100 points per exam); I will add the four exams up (360-400=A; 320-359=B; 280-319=C; 240-279=D; 0-239=F)

The Americans with Disabilities Act:

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services.

Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832, Telephone Number 432-837-8203.

Marketability Skills of a History Major

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.

Students can manage the absorption of data.

Course Outline

Aug. 25-introduction to course/syllabus review-chronological overview of Mexican history

Aug. 27- the geologic/geographic overview of Mesoamerica./the human ecology of MesoAmerica

Sept. 01-the first Mesamericans/The Olmec/the Huasteca

Sept. 03-Teotihuacan and the Classic Era

Sept. 08-the Zapotec of Oaxaca/The Maya

Sept. 10-the Maya

Sept. 15-The Toltecs/The American Southwest

Sept. 17-the Aztecs

Sept. 22-the Aztecs

Sept. 24-Exam # 1 (covers pages 1-193 in Mexico: From the Beginning to the Spanish Conquest)

Sept. 29-Iberian Civilizations to 1492

Oct. 01-Spain, Portugal and the expansion of Europe 1400-1492

Oct. 06-the Spanish in the Caribbean 1492-1600

Oct. 08-the Conquest of the Aztec Empire 1517-1521

Oct. 13-The Columbian Exchange: Mass Pandemic and the Americas

Oct. 15-the Spiritual Conquest of Mexico/Review

Oct. 20-Exam # 2 (covers pages 193-240 in Mexico: From the Beginning to the Spanish Conquest; pages 1-51 in Mexico: The Colonial Era and Born to Die 1-133)

Oct. 22-the Colonial Economy: 1521-1700

Oct. 27-the Colonial Economy: 1521-1700

Oct. 29-Race, Caste, and Gender in Mexico and Spanish America

Nov. 03-Colonial Institutions

Nov. 05-Northern Mexico and the "Borderlands"

Nov. 10 Exam # 3 (covers Mexico: The Colonial Era from pages 31-201 and Born to Die 134-216)

Nov. 12-the Bourbon Reforms

Nov. 17-Towards Independence

Nov. 19-The Insurgency

Nov. 24-The Precolumbian and Colonial Heritage of Mexico

Dec. 1-Fourth Exam (covers Mexico: The Colonial Era 202-332—taken online)