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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

I am Dr. Jorge A. Hernandez, and this is History 3308, History of Mexico. I am happy to inform you that as a graduate student I specialized on the history of Mexico. As part of my studies, I traveled to several cities in Mexico to consult several archives, such as the Archivo de Nuevo Leon and the Archivo Nacional located in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and Mexico City respectively. In addition, I have taught this class for some twenty-eight years at the former University of Texas-Pan American and Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College. As far as the main textbook, I like to use the book entitled *Triumphs and Tragedy: A History of the Mexican People* by Ramon Eduardo Ruiz in part because the author wrote his book from a nationalist perspective. In his writings Ramon Eduardo Ruiz displays a deep empathy for the struggles and misfortunes of the Mexican people and strives to gain, and present, the most thorough insight into the causes and effects of the historical progress of what he regards as his own people.

This course will begin with a brief study of the ancient Indian civilizations that existed in Mexico prior to the arrival of the Spanish conquerors. Next, students will turn their attention to the Spanish conquest of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, and the rest of Mexico. The following subject matter, to which students will dedicate several weeks, will be the colonial era. The three centuries that separated the conquest from the wars of independence, 1521 to 1821, incorporate numerous topics such as the decline of the Indian population, the labor systems, the mining industry, the establishment of the huge landholdings, the haciendas, and the rise of new cities, literature, and art, yet first and foremost the students should focus their minds on the emergence of a new people, the Mexican people, with a culture that combined the native Indian customs with those of the European newcomers. After the colonial period will follow the wars of independence, an extremely decisive event in the development of Mexico that will shape the history of the country for decades after the ending of Spanish domination. Finally, the last half of the course will

cover the decades of chaos that ensued after independence, the establishment of the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz, the Mexican revolution, and the founding of another dictatorship by a political commonly known as the PRI.

In this course, students will familiarize themselves with Mexican history by reading assigned chapters in the Ruiz textbook. As part of their reading of the book material, during the semester students will also complete five study guides with topics provided by the professor as part of their assignments. In these study guides, they must endeavor to prepare them in the most thorough manner possible based upon their reading of the subject and in their own words. During the semester, students will also participate in five discussion sessions on blackboard with their classmates to secure a deeper understanding of the historical material. The completed study guides will count for ten percent of the final grade and the discussion sessions for another ten percent. The remaining eighty percent of the grade will come from the completion of four exams that will be posted on blackboard on the dates specified on the schedule. The professor will analyze the completed study guides and furnish feedback to the students as quickly as possible, and he will also monitor the discussion sessions. Finally, during the discussion sessions please remember to interact with your classmates with the utmost respect and a profound toleration for any difference of opinion expressed by other participants.

SLO-The primary learning objective for this course is for students to analyze the importance of historical context.

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—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.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will examine the Indian and Spanish historical background that contributed to the formation of modern Mexico.

Students will also scrutinize the process and causes that caused the conquest of Tenochtitlan.

Students will also identify the immediate effects of the conquest of Tenochtitlan.

Students will also describe the main events that occurred in Mexico in the second half of the sixteenth century.

Students will also evaluate the society of colonial Mexico in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Students will also analyze the Bourbon Reforms and their impact on colonial Mexico.

Students will also examine the causes and progress of the wars of independence.

Students will also describe the political events that occurred in the first decades of independent Mexico.

Students will also assess the impact of the wars of independence on Mexico.

Students will also identify the causes, progress, and effects of the Texas revolution and the war with the United States.

Students will also scrutinize the War of the Reform and the War of Intervention.

TEXTBOOKS AND EXAMS:

The textbook needed for this course is Triumphs and Tragedy: A History of the Mexican People (isbn 0-393-31066-3) by Ramon Eduardo Ruiz. Additional readings will be made available by the professor and will be indicated in the assignments section. **STUDENTS MUST READ THE TEXTBOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ADEQUATE GRADE.**

Students will prove their mastery of the material learned in the textbook by completing five examinations during the semester. These examinations will consist of multiple choice questions and will total one hundred points per test. The examinations will be timed, with fifty minutes given for the completion of every exam. Students must complete these examinations during the times given, and a make-up exam will require an extremely extraordinary reason. The examinations will be posted on blackboard sometime in the morning will stay posted all day long. These tests will count for 500 points of the final grade, or about 83.33 percent, while the completed study guides discussed below will count for 100 points of the final grade, or about 16.67 percent. **STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE EACH EXAM TWICE,**

AND BLACKBOARD WILL RECORD THE HIGHEST GRADE AS THE FINAL GRADE.

Students will also be required to complete study guides provided by professor. The terms, names, and concepts included in those study guides must be answered to the fullest extent possible from the information in the textbook. The completed study guides must be turned in via regular email. Please refer to the date schedule below for due dates on completed study guides and exam dates. Exams will be posted on the morning of the due date and will stay posted until 8:00 p.m.

First completed study guide due on July 13

First exam will be given on July 13

Second completed study guide due on July 20.

Second exam will be given on July 20.

Third completed study guide due on July 27.

Third exam will be given on July 27

Fourth completed study guide due on Aug. 3.

Fourth exam will be given on Aug. 3.

Final completed study guide due on Aug. 8.

Final exam will be given on Aug. 8.

For communications with the professor, please use my regular email (jorgeh@sulross.edu).

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 should contact Paulette Harris at 830-279-3003. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, Texas 78801.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. *[If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or equipment, please describe those requirements here.]* The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.