



Sul Ross State University
Fall 2025

History 5303: Seminar in Mexican History

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Office Hours: by arrangement

Course Description:

A seminar focused on the era of the *Porfiriato* and the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and its economic, political, and social impact on the history of the nation.

Required Texts:

Porfirio Diaz: Profiles in Power by Paul Garner (9781315841830)

Muy Buenas Noches: Mexico, Television, and the Cold War by Celeste Gonzalez de Bustamante (9780803240100)

Emiliano Zapata: Mexico's Social Revolutionary by Paul Hart (9780190688097)

State Governors in the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1952: Portraits in Conflict, Courage, and Corruption by Bill Beezley and Jurgen Buchenau (0742557707)

Scholarly Articles:

Boyer, Christopher, "Old Loves, New Loyalties: Agrarismo in Michoacán, 1920-1928," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 78, No. 3 (1998): 419-455.

Knight, Alan, "Cardenismo: Juggernaut or Jalopy?," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (1994): 73-107.

Knight, Alan, "*The Myth of the Mexican Revolution*," *Past & Present*, No. 209 (2010): 223-273.

López, Amanda, "'An Urgent Need for Hygiene': Cremation, Class, and Public Health in Mexico City, 1879-1920," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Winter 2015): 88-124.

Meyers, William K., "Pancho Villa and the Multinationals: United States Mining Interests in Villista Mexico, 1913-1915," *Journal of Latin American Studies* Vol. 23, No. 2 (1991): 339-363.

Wakild, Emily, "Naturalizing Modernity: Urban Parks, Public Gardens and Drainage Projects in Porfirian Mexico City," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Winter 2007): 101-123.

Book Chapter:

Grandia, Liza, "Many Mexican Worlds in Defense of Maize." In *Kernels of Resistance: Maize, Food Sovereignty, and Collective Power*, (University of Washington Press, 2024): 156–88.

Goals of the Seminar:

- Students will evaluate Mexican history concerning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Students will develop an understanding of the most recent interpretations of modern Mexican history.
- Students will evaluate Mexico's general historiography for the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries to analyze contemporary historical research regarding the country's modern history. Note: On occasion the professor will provide the students with additional readings for the week.
- Students will apply their knowledge of recent Mexican history to write book and article reviews.
- Students will improve their analytical skills through the careful examination of selected author's work in an academic environment.

Course Policies:

General Thoughts: Honesty and integrity are critical character values. Cheating will not be tolerated. All students must be familiar with the Sul Ross Student Handbook and the Academic Honor Code. The handbook can be obtained through the university website located at the following address: <https://www.sulross.edu/student-life/>.

Statement on Academic Honesty: According to the SRSU Student Handbook, "*The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.*"

SRSU Distance Education Statement:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based or distance education courses must maintain

appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complain are located in the student handbook.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to keep up with the readings, participate in email discussions, and complete assignment on time.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Range
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Breakdown:

Type	Weight
Discussion and Primary Source Analysis	50%
Historiographical Paper #1	25%
Historiographical Paper #2	25%

Course Outline:

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1 & 2	The <i>Porfiriato</i>	This module will focus on Porfirian Mexico from 1876-1910 through a careful examination of published social and cultural studies.
Weeks 3 & 4	Mexico's Revolution of 1910	This module will focus on the years 1910-1920. We will examine the works of historians that have focused on the combative phase of Mexico's Revolution of 1910.
Weeks 5 & 6	Post-revolutionary Mexico	This module will focus on the construction of the post-revolutionary Mexican state after 1920.
Weeks 7 & 8	Mexico after World War II	This module will focus on Mexico after World War II with a careful examination of the political, economic, and social history of the time period.