

## **Course Syllabus: History 3307 V01/Fall 2025: Sul Ross State University**

### **PreColumbian and Colonial Mexico**

**Dr, Mark Saad Saka**

#### **Contact Information:**

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#### **Course Objective**

The objective of this course is to examine the sweeping history of Mesoamerica (Pre-Columbian Mexico and northern Central America) and Colonial Nueva Espana (Colonial Mexico). We will cover the vast civilizational origins of Mesoamerica and the rise and fall of indigenous kingdoms and cities including the Olmec, Maya, Zapotec-Mixtec, and Aztec as well as its integration of what is today the American Southwest. We will then examine the history of Spain from its Iberian ancestral roots, through the Roman, Visigoth, Arab-Muslim, and Reconquista-Catholic civilizations. We shall then turn to the pivotal and disruptive Spanish Conquest of Mexico and the creation of a new colonial order 1519-1821. We will conclude by examining the origins and course of Mexican Independence from Mexico 1810-1821.

#### **Course Required Readings**

Alan Knight, "Mexico: Volume 1, From the Beginning to the Spanish Conquest, Cambridge University Press, 2002, ISBN # 978-0521814744

Alan Knight, "Mexico: Volume 2, The Colonial Era, Cambridge University Press, 2002, ISBN # 978-0521891967

Miguel Leon-Portillo, The Broken Spears, the Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico, 2006, Beacon Press, ISBN # 978-0807055007

#### **Course Requirements and Course Grading**

1. Obtain the books and read them
2. Attend class, punctually
3. Take notes and participate in class
4. There will be seven exams/ Each exam will count for 100 points. The exams will integrate material from BOTH the lectures and the book. There has to be evidence from the books to receive full credit  
90%-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; 0-59%=F
5. Smile and enjoy this course. Mexican history is one of the most fascinating histories, the pre-Columbian era, the Conquest, and the Colonial era, capping off with the

Independence Struggle. You will get more out of this course if you wear a smile to class.

**ADA (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 who need accessibility services should contact Rebecca Wren at 432-837-8691; Ferguson Hall Room 112.

### **Marketability Skills of a History Major**

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.

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.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

**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.

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

**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.

**Library Information:** The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through the SWTJC website.

<https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document delivery from the Alpine campus.

**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.