INTA 3020. CONTEMPORARY MEXICO
Fall 2020

There are no prerequisites for this course
This course fulfills the Social Science requirement at Georgia Tech
Prof. Alberto Fuentes (alberto.fuentes@inta.gatech.edu)

Overview
This fully remote-learning undergraduate course introduces students to the politics, economy and society of contemporary Mexico. The course is divided into three parts. In the first part, students will learn about Mexico’s fascinating politics during the historical period encompassing the Revolution of 1910-1920, the 71-year period of one-party rule under the PRI, and the transition to democracy in the 1990s and 2000s. In the second part of the course, students will explore the four major economic models that competed for dominance during this 100-year period: liberalism, agrarianism, import-substitution industrialization, and neoliberalism. In the third part of the course, students will examine prominent social themes, including migration to the U.S., the drug trade and the North-South divide. This introductory course will prepare students to better understand and evaluate Mexico’s political, economic and social achievements and failures, as well as its relations with other major actors, most notably its northern neighbor.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior, particularly in Mexico
2. Use this knowledge in a practical problem-solving way to analyze and address issues of immediate international concern (Problem-solving in International Affairs)
   a. Understand relevant political, economic and social concepts and debates
   b. Assess different approaches and frameworks to interpret and evaluate key questions and problems in contemporary Mexican politics, economy and society
3. Enhance their awareness of the diversity of ethical systems in the world (Cultural and Ethical Awareness)
4. Express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and class discussions (Professional Development)

Teaching Mode
This course is taught in a fully remote mode. Lecture recordings will be posted on Canvas on a weekly basis. All requirement instructions will similarly be posted on Canvas, and students will submit all assignments through Canvas.

Readings

All additional required readings will be available on the class website on Canvas (except for those marked with an asterisk (*), which are available through Georgia Tech’s Library website).
Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date(s)</th>
<th>% Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responses to Discussion Board Questions (x 11, lowest dropped)</td>
<td>Weekly (see below), by noon ET on Sunday</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksheets (x 11, lowest dropped)</td>
<td>Weekly (see below), by noon ET on Friday</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Short essays (x 2)</td>
<td>October 9, by noon ET</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>November 6, by noon ET</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final take-home exam</td>
<td>December 4, by noon ET</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Description of Requirements

1. **Discussion Board Questions.** On most weeks, the professor will post one or more discussion questions on Canvas in connection with the lecture. Questions will invite students to take sides on a debate, explore the possible implications of a particular argument, react to a reading, etc. Students are expected to (1) provide a thoughtful response to the discussion question(s); and (2) respond to peers’ discussion threads. Grades will be based on both the quantity and quality of the responses. There will be 11 discussion board questions throughout the semester. The lowest-graded response will be dropped and the remaining 10 will account for 20% of the final grade (2% each).

2. **Worksheets.** On most weeks, students will complete a worksheet covering a prominent case related to the week’s topic. While students will submit each worksheet individually, they are strongly encouraged to discuss responses with members of their assigned group, and some responses will require them to incorporate other group members’ inputs. All worksheets require both specific assigned readings, as well as additional independent research. There will be 11 worksheets throughout the semester. The lowest-graded worksheet will be dropped, and the remaining 10 will comprise 40% of the final grade (4% each).

3. **Short essays.** At the end of Parts I (Mexican Politics) and II (Mexican Economy) of the course, students will receive a prompt for a short essay (3 double-space pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). Students will have 72 hours to complete the essay. The two essays will account for 20% of the final grade (10% each).

4. **Final Take-home exam.** At the end of the course, students will receive four possible essay prompts. They will select two of those prompts, and write short responses to each (2-3 double-spaced pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins for each response). Students will have five days to complete the exam. The exam will account for 20% of the final grade.

Grading Scale

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 65-69%
- F 0-64%
Policy for Late Assignments
Late assignments are strongly discouraged and will incur penalties except in the event of an illness or emergency (documentation will be requested). Any major scheduling conflicts – including those that arise due to participation in “approved Institute activities” – should be discussed with the professor at least two weeks before the assignment due date. For assignments turned in less than 24 hours late, the penalty will be a deduction of 20% off the assignment grade. No assignments turned in 24 or more hours late will be accepted.

Feedback and contact with the faculty
1. **Online Lecture Recordings and Responses.** The professor will post pre-recorded lectures for each weekly topic on the Canvas website. Those lectures, alongside the week’s discussion question(s) and worksheet, will be available each Monday by 6 a.m. ET. Where appropriate, the professor will also post video recordings responding to student questions and comments.
2. **Virtual Office Hours.** The professor will meet with students during virtual office hours to answer any questions or concerns. To schedule a meeting, students should email the professor to make the necessary arrangements. All meetings will be conducted using BlueJeans.
3. **Email Policy.** Email is the best way to contact the professor. Students should expect responses within a 24-hour period. In every email, students should include the course number in the subject line (i.e. INTA 3020).

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities
The professor will work with Office of Disability Services so that all students have an equal opportunity for success. For information, call (404)89-2563. Information is also available at: [http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/](http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/)

Academic integrity and Honor Code
While students are encouraged to work together and collaborate with each other, they should clearly differentiate their work from that of others, including their peers and bibliographical sources. Complete and accurate representation of all direct quotations and paraphrased material is required. Plagiarizing or cheating will be addressed in accordance with the Georgia Tech Honor Code. For information, please visit: [http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/) [http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/)
PART I: Politics

Week 1. Introduction. Overview of the Course / The Porfiriato: Seeds of Revolution (1880s – 1910s)
- **Required readings**
  - Knight, Chapters 1-2
- **Worksheet 1. The Authoritarianism of the Porfiriato** (due August 21)
- **Suggested readings**

Week 2. The Revolution: From Madero through the Maximato (1910s – 1934)
- **Required readings**
  - Knight, Chapters 3 – 6
- **Worksheet 2. The Meaning of “Revolution”** (due August 28)
- **Suggested readings**
  - Camin and Meyer, Chapter 2 and 3

Week 3. Cardenismo (1934-1940)
- **Required readings**
  - Knight, Chapter 7
- **Worksheet 3. The Oil expropriation** (due September 4)
- **Suggested readings**
  - Camin and Meyer, Chapter 4
Week 4. The Miracle Years: Consolidation of the regime (1940 – 1968)

- **Required readings**

- **Worksheet 4. The 1968 Tlatelolco Massacre** (due September 11)

- **Suggested readings**

Week 5. Regime exhaustion (1970s- 1980s)

- **Required readings**

- **Worksheet 5: Challenges from the Left: the 1988 Election** (due September 18)

- **Suggested readings**

Week 6. Political Liberalization: Loosening Constraints (1980s – 1990s)

- **Required readings**
• Worksheet 6. The Political Storms of 1994 (due September 25)
• Suggested readings

• Required readings
• Worksheet 7. Challenges from the Right: PAN (due October 2)
• Suggested readings

Week 8. Democratic Consolidation or Retrenchment? Lopez Obrador and MORENA (2018 – Present)
• Required readings
  o “Mexico under AMLO,” Strategic Comments, 24(6), 2018: iii-iv.
• Essay 1 (due October 9)
PART II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Week 9. Economic Liberalism (1900s)

- **Required readings**

- **Worksheet 8. Railroads and Agriculture (due October 16)**

- **Suggested readings**

Week 10. Revolution, Depression and (short-lived) Agrarianism (1910s – 1940)

- **Required readings**

- **Worksheet 8. Cardenas Agrarian Reform: Ejidos (due October 23)**

- **Suggested readings**
  - Camin and Meyer, Chapter 4


- **Required readings**
• **Worksheet 10. The Debt Crisis** (due October 30)

• **Suggested readings**
  o Moreno-Brid, Juan Carlos, and Jaime Ros. *Development and growth in the Mexican economy: A historical perspective*. Oxford University Press, 2009 (read Chapter 5)


• **Required readings**

• **Essay 2** (due November 6)

• **Suggested readings**
PART III. SOCIETY

Week 13. Immigration and the Drug Trade

- Required readings
  - Worksheet 11. The Immigration Debate (due November 13)

Week 14. Subnational Divergence: The North-South Divide

- Required readings
- Final Take-home exam (due December 4)