INTA 8803. CONTEMPORARY MEXICO  
Fall 2020  
Prof. Alberto Fuentes (alberto.fuentes@inta.gatech.edu)

Overview
This fully remote-learning graduate 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 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Responses (x 3)</td>
<td>September 6, by noon ET</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>September 27, by noon ET</td>
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<td></td>
<td>November 9, by noon ET</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksheets (x 11, lowest dropped)</td>
<td>Weekly (see below), by noon ET on Friday</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short essay</td>
<td>October 9, by noon ET</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>December 4, by noon ET</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Description of Requirements

1. **Short responses.** On Weeks 3, 6 and 12, students will receive a prompt for a short response (2-3 double-space pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). The prompt will invite students to react to a debate or explore the implications of a particular argument. Together, the four responses will comprise 15% of the final grade (5% 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 30% of the final grade (3% each).

3. **Short essay.** At the end of Part I (Mexican Politics) of the course, students will receive a prompt for a short essay (5 double-space pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). Students will have 72 hours to complete the essay. The essay will account for 15% of the final grade.

4. **Final Essay.** At the end of the course, students will be asked to write a final essay on a topic of their choosing (12-15 double-space pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). The essay will account for 40% 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, 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 assignments, 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 8803).

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/

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/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)

Week 2. The Revolution: From Madero through the Maximato (1910s – 1934)

- Required readings
  - Knight, Chapters 3 – 6
  - Camin and Meyer, Chapter 2 and 3

- Worksheet 2. The Meaning of “Revolution” (due August 28)

Week 3. Cardenismo (1934–1940)

- Required readings
  - Knight, Chapter 7
  - Camin and Meyer, Chapter 4

- Worksheet 3. The Oil expropriation (due September 4)

- Short response #1 (due September 6)

Week 4. The Miracle Years: Consolidation of the regime (1940 – 1968)

- Required readings


Camin and Meyer, Chapter 5

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


Suggested readings


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

Required readings


Camin and Meyer, Chapter 6

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)


Short Response #2 (due September 27)


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**

- **Short Essay** (due October 9)

**PART II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Week 9. Economic Liberalism (1900s)**

- **Required readings**

- **Worksheet 8. Railroads and Agriculture** (due October 16)
Week 10. Revolution, Depression and (short-lived) Agrarianism (1910s – 1940)

• Required readings
  o Camin and Meyer, Chapter 4
• Worksheet 8. Cardenas Agrarian Reform: Ejidos (due October 23)
• Suggested readings


• 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
• Suggested readings
• Short Response #3 (due November 9)
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 Essay (due December 4)