This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students’ broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:
- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:
- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:
- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Overview of the course

This 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)
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>% Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handouts (x 15)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Description of Requirements
1. **Attendance and Participation.** You are required to attend class and participate in discussions and other activities. You will be graded on both the quantity and quality of your contributions. Attendance and participation will account for 15% of your final grade.
2. **Quizzes.** On most weeks, you will have to complete a timed (8-minute, four questions) multiple-choice quiz on Canvas. The quizzes will address your required readings for that week. Together, the quizzes will comprise 10% of your final grade (1% each).
3. **Handouts.** On most weeks, you will complete at least one short in-class handout covering prominent questions related to the week’s topic. There will be 15 handouts throughout the semester. They will comprise 15% of the final grade (1% each).
4. **Short essay.** At the end of Part I (Mexican Politics) of the course, you will receive a prompt for a short essay (3 double-space pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). You will have 72 hours to complete the essay. The essay will account for 15% of the final grade.
5. **Midterm exam.** At the end of Part II (Mexican Economy) of the course, you will complete a midterm exam. The exam will cover all material from Parts I and II of the course. It will account for 20% of the final grade.
6. **Final presentation.** At the end of the course, you will prepare a presentation addressing the upcoming presidential election in Mexico. Detailed instructions will be provided on March 28, 2024. The presentation will account for 25% of the final grade.

Grading Scale
Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-64%</td>
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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. The professor will not accept assignments turned in over 24 hours late.

Feedback and contact with the faculty
1. Office Hours. The professor will meet with students during office hours to answer any questions or concerns. To schedule a meeting, you should email the professor to make the necessary arrangements.
2. Email Policy. Email is the best way to contact the professor. You should expect responses within a 24-hour period. In every email, please 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. Information is available at: http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/

Academic integrity and Honor Code
While students are encouraged to work together and collaborate with each other, you should clearly differentiate your work from that of others, including 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/
# COURSE ORGANIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS TITLE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS DUE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Porfiriato</td>
<td>Quiz 1 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>NO CLASS: MLK Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Mexican Revolution</td>
<td>Quiz 2 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>The Sonorans and the rise of Cardenas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>Cardenas</td>
<td>Quiz 3 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Miracle Years I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Miracle Years II</td>
<td>Quiz 4 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Regime Exhaustion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Political Liberalization I</td>
<td>Quiz 5 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Political Liberalization II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Democratic Emergence</td>
<td>Quiz 6 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Democratic Consolidation</td>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Essay due</td>
<td>Essay 1 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Economic Liberalism</td>
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<td>Feb. 29</td>
<td>Agrarianism</td>
<td>Quiz 7 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Import Substitution Ind. I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>Import Substitution Ind. II</td>
<td>Quiz 8 (11:59p ET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
<td>Neoliberalism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>Final Presentation Instructions and Prep (virtual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 2</td>
<td>Immigration</td>
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<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>The Drug Trade</td>
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<td>Apr. 9</td>
<td>North-South Divide</td>
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<td>Apr. 11</td>
<td>Grad student presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>Undergraduate student presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 18</td>
<td>Undergraduate student presentations</td>
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READINGS
PART I: Politics

Week 1. Introduction. Overview of the Course / The Porfiriato: Seeds of Revolution (1880s – 1910s)

- **Required readings**
  - Knight, Chapters 1-2

- **Suggested readings**

Week 2. The Revolution (1910s – 1920s)

- **Required readings**
  - Knight, Chapters 3–6

- **Suggested readings**
  - Camin and Meyer, Chapter 2 and 3

Week 3. The Sonorans and Cardenismo (1934-1940)

- **Required readings**
  - Knight, Chapter 7

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

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

- **Required readings**
  - Excerpt from “Vargas Llosa: Mexico is the perfect dictatorship,” El País, September 31, 1990.

**Suggested readings**

- Camin and Meyer, Chapter 5


**Required readings**


**Suggested readings**

- Camin and Meyer, Chapter 6


**Required readings**


**Suggested readings**

**Week 7. Democratic Consolidation or Retrenchment? Lopez Obrador and MORENA (2018 – Present)**

- **Required readings**
PART II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Week 8. Economic Liberalism (1900s) and Agrarianism (1910s – 1940)

- **Required readings**

- **Suggested readings**


- **Required readings**

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

Week 10. Neoliberalism (1980-Present)

- **Required readings**
- **Suggested readings**

**Week 11. SPRING BREAK**

**Week 12. Final Presentation Prep (virtual)**
PART III. SOCIETY

Week 13. Immigration and the Drug Trade
- Required readings

Week 14. Subnational Divergence: The North-South Divide
- Required readings

Week 15. Final presentations