

Spring 2-1-1999

PSC 327.01: Politics of Mexico

Taeko Hiroi
The University Of Montana

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PSC 327 POLITICS OF MEXICO
Department of Political Science, The University of Montana

Spring 1999

MWF 10:10-11:00 in LA106

Instructor: Taeko Hiroi

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Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00 & F 2:00-3:00 in LA355

(or by appointment, Office Phone: 243-4862)

Course Purpose and Objectives:

This course is designed to help students increase their knowledge and understanding of the Mexican political system and the issues salient in contemporary Mexican politics. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: 1) demonstrate factual and theoretical knowledge of Mexican politics, 2) analyze issues critical in contemporary Mexico, and 3) prepare a research paper on Mexican politics.

No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Mexico; However, a willingness to work hard to understand Mexican politics is required. This includes that students do all assigned readings carefully and analytically and come to class prepared for discussion.

Required Books:

Wayne A. Cornelius, *Mexican Politics in Transition: The Breakdown of a One-Party-Dominant Regime*. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, 1996.

Miguel Angel Centeno, *Democracy Within Reason: Technocratic Revolution in Mexico*. Penn State Press, Second Edition, 1997.

Nora Lustig, *Mexico: The Remaking of an Economy*. The Brookings Institution, Second Edition, 1998.

Jorge G. Castañeda, *The Mexican Shock: Its Meaning for the U.S.* The New Press, 1995.

Assignments:

1. *Read carefully and critically* assigned readings and *come to class prepared to discuss the issues raised in those readings*.
2. A mid-term exam (Mon., March 8). Study questions will be handed out during the class before the day of the exam.
3. A final exam (8:00-10:00, Wed., May 12). Study questions will be handed out during the last class meeting.
4. A prospectus for a project which includes a research question and expected findings (due Monday, March 22). Since re-writing of the prospectus may be necessary, early submissions of the first drafts are strongly encouraged.

5. A research project dealing with issues in contemporary Mexican politics. The project must contain: (1) a research question, (2) the reason(s) why the issue is important to be addressed in understanding Mexican politics, (3) the answer(s) to the question, and (4) evidence to support the answer(s). This project must be typed, double-spaced, and approximately 10 pages in length, and turned in no later than Monday, May 3. No late papers will be accepted.

Grading:

	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Participation	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	30%
Prospectus	10%
Term paper	30%

Course Structure and Reading Assignment

Part I: The Mexican Political System

Introduction to the Politics of Mexico

Mon., January 25: Introduction.

Wed., January 27: Cornelius, pp. 1-9 and pp. 21-24.

The Mexican Revolution and the Formation of the Corporatist State

Fri., January 29: Cornelius, pp. 11-19.

Mon., February 1: Re-read Cornelius, pp. 11-19.

Political Structure, Institutions, and Interest Representation

Wed., February 3: Cornelius, pp. 25-49.

Fri., February 5: Cornelius, pp. 51-75.

Mon., February 8: Cornelius, pp. 77-88.

Political Participation and Government Performance

Wed., February 10: Cornelius, pp. 89-119

Part II: Democracy and Development in Mexico

Technocracy and the Mexican State

Fri., February 12: Centeno, Preface and Ch. 1.

Mon., February 15: Presidents' Day -- No Class!

Wed., February 17: Centeno, Ch. 2.

Fri., February 19: Centeno, Ch. 3.

Mon., February 22: Centeno, Ch. 4.

The Political Elite, Ideology, and Limits to Democracy

Wed., February 24: Centeno, Ch. 5.

Fri., February 26: Centeno, Ch. 6.

Mon., March 1: Centeno, Ch. 7.

Wed., March 3: Centeno, Ch. 8.

Fri., March 5: Exam Workshop

Mon., March 8: Mid-term Exam

The Politics of the Debt and Structural Adjustment

Wed., March 10: Jeffrey A. Frieden, "Debt, Economic Policy, and Politics in Mexico, Venezuela, and Argentina" in his *Debt, Development, & Democracy: Modern Political Economy and Latin America, 1965-1985* (on reserve)

Fri., March 12: Lustig, Introduction and Ch. 1

Mon., March 22: Lustig, Ch. 2.

Wed., March 24: Lustig, Ch. 4.

Fri., March 26: Lustig, Ch. 5.

Success or Failure?: The Peso Crisis and the Social Costs of Structural Adjustment

Mon., March 29: Lustig, Ch. 6.

Wed., March 31: Lustig, Ch. 7.

Fri., April 2: Lustig, Ch. 3.

Mon., April 5: Lustig, Ch. 8.

Wed., April 7: Lustig, Conclusion.

Part III: Mexico, the United States, and the World

Fri., April 9: Castañeda, Introduction.

Mon., April 12: Castañeda, Ch. 1.

Wed., April 14: Castañeda, Ch. 2.

Fri., April 16: Castañeda, Ch. 3.

Mon., April 19: Castañeda, Ch. 4.

Wed., April 21: Castañeda, Ch. 5.

Fri., April 23: Castañeda, Ch. 6.

Mon., April 26: Castañeda, Ch. 7.

Wed., April 28: Castañeda, Ch. 8.

Fri., April 30: Castañeda, Ch. 9.

Mon., May 3: Castañeda, Ch. 10 and Postscript.

Wed., May 5: Castañeda, Ch. 11.

Fri., May 7: Course Review and Exam Workshop.

Wed., May 12: 8:00-10:00 Final Exam.

NOTE: MON., MARCH 8 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR CHANGE GRADING OPTION.