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PSC 327.01: Politics of Mexico

Paul Haber

University of Montana - Missoula, paul.haber@umontana.edu

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POLITICS OF MEXICO

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber

redbeard_mt@yahoo.com

Political Science Department, course #327

Summer 2008 (in Mexico)

Meets Monday and Wednesday 5:00 – 7:30

Required texts (soon to be available at the University Bookstore):

Roderic Ai Camp, *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. Oxford University Press, 5th edition, November 2006. Available in paperback. **It must be the 5th edition!**

Santiago Levy, *Progress Against Poverty: Sustaining Mexico's Progres-a-Oportunidades Program*. Brookings Institution Press, 2006.

This is a seminar class focused on Mexico's contemporary (20th century) political history and its recent transition and ongoing consolidation to democracy. The Camp book is a popular introductory text. We will also read and discuss together some materials on a development program of the Mexican government called Progres-a that began in the 1990s and that continues today. Our study of Progres-a will give us a Mexico focus to the issues raised in our other seminar on development (PSc 463).

Students are required to come to class having read all the material carefully. Students should expect to answer questions from the instructor related to the reading and to bring questions and comments of your own. It is not possible to do well in this class without a willingness to participate thoughtfully in our conversations. I am happy to help students to develop strategies to improve their class participation, and may come to you with suggestions. However, the ultimate responsibility for finding your voice is yours. Students are strongly encouraged to read the books and take notes before the program begins and then to re-read the texts again and take additional notes as it is assigned during the program.

Grades will be based on the student's ability to demonstrate to the instructor that the material has been read thoroughly and thoughtfully. This will be measured in several ways: class discussion, homework assignments, and two oral exams.

Reading Assignments and Exam schedule:

June 16 Chapters one and two of Camp

June 18 Chapters three and four of Camp

June 23 Chapters five and six of Camp

June 25 Chapters seven and eight of Camp

June 30 Chapter 6 of Mehrotra & Delamonica (Policies to enhance efficiency and improve delivery in the public provision of basic social services)

July 2 Oral Exam #1

July 11 (Friday) Chapters nine and ten of Camp

July 14 Pages 1-50 of Levy

July 16 Pages 50-100 of Levy

July 21 Pages 100-150 of Levy

July 23 Oral Exam #2

Additional readings and resources: Over the course of the semester I might suggest additional readings and resources that might be useful to those who would like to explore in more depth issues raised in the readings and in our class discussions. One suggestion is the Inter-American Foundation - a U.S. government agency that funds grassroots development projects. The 2006 issue of their annual journal focuses on their work in Mexico that attempts to build bridges between development work and migration. Take a look at http://www.iaf.gov/publications/Journal/2006_27_1_en/IAF_GrassrootsDev27.1.06.pdf