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PSC 327.01: Politics of Mexico

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POLITICS OF MEXICO

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber
University of Montana
Political Science Department, course #327
Spring 1995
Meets: TR 11:00 - 12:30

Office Hours: MW 1:30 - 3:30 (and by appointment) in LA 355
Office phone: 243-4862

16 February 1995 is last day to drop or change grading option

Required texts available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. Roderic Ai Camp, *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press, 1993.
2. Philip Russell, *Mexico Under Salinas*. Mexico Resource Center, 1994.
3. Abraham Lowenthal and Katrina Burgess, eds., *The California - Mexico Connection*.

This is a course on the politics of contemporary Mexico, from the Revolution of 1910-1917 to the present. Your grade will be based on a mid-term (1/3 of total grade), a research project (1/3), and a final exam (1/3). Students are required to read all assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. All assigned readings must be read carefully and analytically *before* the class listed below for discussion. You should come to class prepared to make voluntary contributions to class discussions and to answer questions directed at students by the instructor. Students will have an opportunity to either lower or improve their grade through class attendance and participation in class discussions and debates. Exams will refer to both the readings and class discussions.

It may become necessary, over the course of the class, to rearrange assignments or alter the schedule. Any changes in scheduling will be announced in class. If you miss class, you are responsible for checking with another student for lecture notes and any announcements that may have been made regarding scheduling or assignments.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Your assignment is to write a concise report on a problem confronting Mexico today. Examples include: The U.S.-Mexican Border; Rural Poverty; U.S.-Mexican Trade Relations; The Environment; Mexican Migration to the United States; Rural to

Urban Migration Within Mexico; Democratization of the PRI (Mission Impossible?); The Prospects for Mexican Political Liberalization in the 1990s; Central American Refugees in Mexico; The Treatment of Mexican Immigrants in the United States; Resistance to Neoliberal Economic Reforms.

While your paper may go through several drafts, the final report that I read must be between five and seven pages in length, not including the bibliography (double spaced, one inch margins, no smaller print than 10 cpi). If possible, use footnotes not endnotes. Your bibliography must include, at an absolute minimum, five different sources that are cited in the body of your report. Papers are due April 27.

Your paper should adhere to the following structure (students who wish to use another structure must have it approved by the instructor, in advance):

1. Describe the history of the problem in general terms.
2. Explain the debate over the causes of the problem. You must make reference to at least one major debate that exists over the causes of the problem. Many problems have three, four or more schools of thought. If this is the case, you must make a choice. One strategy is to give them all more or less equal space. A second strategy, equally acceptable, is to acknowledge the range of debate but focus on the two or three arguments that you think are the most important. Oftentimes, different viewpoints agree on some parts of the problem, while disagreeing on others. Your analysis of the debate should describe and evaluate such similarities and differences.
3. Introduce at least two contrasting prescriptions that have been offered to resolve or mitigate the problem. Be careful, particularly if you happen to strongly prefer one over the other, to give all prescriptions fair treatment. Beware of making straw man arguments.
4. Conclude your report by taking a position on the debate. The important thing here, in terms of your grade, is not which position you take but the quality of your reasoning for taking one position over the others. Imagine that you are making an argument to the person or persons who are setting policy or otherwise making decisions that affect the problem. Be persuasive.

SUGGESTIONS: Some students have reported that the Writing Lab can be a useful place to work over a draft. Also, the Mansfield Library has a computer service known as Laser Net CD-Rom Data Bases. This can be an extremely useful tool in locating articles and books on a particular topic. The library offers introductory courses. You can sign up at the Reference Desk.

JANUARY 17: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN MEXICO
Camp, pp. 3-54

JANUARY 19: CONSOLIDATING THE REVOLUTION
Wayne Cornelius, "Nation-Building, Participation and
Distribution: The Politics of Social Reform under Cárdenas," in
G.A. Almond and S.C. Flanagan, *Development Episodes in
Comparative Politics: Crisis, Choice and Change*. 1981.
(on reserve)

JANUARY 24: POLITICAL CULTURE AND VALUES
Camp, pp. 55-93

JANUARY 26: POLITICAL RECRUITMENT; CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE;
WHO GOVERNS? THE STRUCTURE OF DECISION MAKING
Camp, pp. 94-145

JANUARY 31: INTRODUCTION TO CHANGING PATTERNS OF POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION AND MODERNIZATION
Camp, pp. 146-182

FEBRUARY 2: SALINAS I
Russell, pp. 1-66

FEBRUARY 7: SALINAS II
Russell, pp. 66-139

FEBRUARY 9: SALINAS III
Russell, pp. 140-176

FEBRUARY 14: SALINAS IV
Russell, pp. 177-229

FEBRUARY 16: SALINAS V
Russell, pp. 230-270

FEBRUARY 21: SALINAS VI
Russell, pp. 271-310

FEBRUARY 23: SALINAS VII
Russell, pp. 311-377 (378-392 is optional)
Students will receive mid-term questions/study guide

FEBRUARY 28: MID-TERM WORKSHOP

MARCH 2: MID-TERM

MARCH 7: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION I
Lowenthal and Burgess, pp. 3-47

MARCH 9: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION II
Lowenthal and Burgess, pp. 51-81

MARCH 21: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION III
Lowenthal and Burgess, pp. 82-128

MARCH 23: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION IV
Lowenthal and Burgess, pp. 131-175

MARCH 28: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION V
no required reading. Film Day.

MARCH 30: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION VI
Lowenthal and Burgess, pp. 176-235

APRIL 4: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION VII
Lowenthal and Burgess, pp. 239-276

APRIL 6: CALIFORNIA/MEXICO CONNECTION VIII

All students are required to come to class with a one to two page typed statement on Proposition 187. Details will be given in class.

The details of the following class dates will be decided upon by the professor, in consultation with students. Possible topics include: Chiapas; NAFTA and the Americas Initiative; Neoliberalism (Mexico in Comparative Perspective, Social Democratic Alternatives, etc.); Drugs; Labor; The Politics of Gender; Social Movements (urban poor, peasants, etc.)

While we will probably continue to have some lecture/discussion formats, the final class meetings are also likely to include semi-formal class debates, guest lectures, and student presentations.

APRIL 11:

APRIL 13:

APRIL 18:

APRIL 20:

APRIL 25:

APRIL 27: RESEARCH PAPERS DUE No assigned reading

MAY 2:

MAY 4: Course evaluation and final exam workshop

MAY 8: FINAL EXAM 8-10am