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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 243-4862

Paul.Haber@umontana.edu

Political Science Department, course #327

Spring 2005

Meets Tuesday and Thursday 2:10 – 3:30

Office Hours: LA 355 Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:00 and 3:30-4:00 in LA 355

Required texts available or soon to be available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

(There is one copy of Opening Mexico on reserve. Middlebrook may not be there yet.)

Julia Preston and Samuel Dillon. (2004) *Opening Mexico: The Making of a Democracy*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Kevin Middlebrook, Editor. (2004) *Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico*. La Jolla: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California at San Diego.

There are two aspects to this class. First, there is the content. It is expected that students will leave this class with knowledge about contemporary Mexico. Second, this is a class that demands of students that they engage in the art of critical thinking. In brief, this means thinking about knowledge in creative ways. Students will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate the degree to which they have mastered both aspects of the class: 1) the material as presented in the reading and lecture

Your grade will be based on two exams (2/3 of total grade) and class attendance, in-class assignments, and participation (1/3 of total grade). The reading load is quite heavy in this class and students are required to read all assigned readings before the class in which they will be discussed. Coming to class prepared means having read the material carefully and thoughtfully. It means coming to class each day prepared to participate by offering interpretations or questions concerning the readings' main arguments.

Two times during the semester each student will be required to write a one to two paged typed statement in response to the readings. **This statement must be posted to Blackboard no later than 5pm on the day before the class in which the readings are to be discussed.** This statement must do two things. First, it should state what the student determines to be the main arguments or themes of the reading, along with a brief statement regarding why these are the most important arguments or themes in the reading. Second, the statement must conclude with a comment on up to three issues or sections of the reading that the student decides, after a careful reading of the material, are in need of class discussion, along with a comment for why these are important to discuss. The statement can be written in bullet form or in more traditional prose. What is important is that the two sections be clearly demarcated and that the writing be clear, precise, and well-edited. Students will be assigned specific days to do this assignment. If you would like to request certain dates, you may do so up till 4:00pm this Thursday, January 27 (give me your top three choices). **Everyone in the class is required to read these statements carefully before coming to class.**

Students may miss two classes without explanation. After that, students must bring a typed statement explaining their absence (**please do not phone or email me, it is neither necessary nor sufficient**). Make a serious effort to get to class on time. If you come in late make sure you check with me after class so that I can mark you late instead of being absent.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT SCHEDULING INFORMATION

January 25 Introduction to the class.

January 27 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997, pp. 226-262 and Judith Hellman, *Mexico in Crisis*. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1988, pp. 3-31. Available on both electronic and print reserve at Mansfield Library.

February 1 Hellman is available on both electronic and print reserve. Both Haber articles are available on blackboard:

Paul Haber, "Import Substitution Industrialization," in Michael Werner, ed., *Encyclopedia of Mexico: History, Society & Culture*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1998.

Paul Haber, "Neoliberalism," in Michael Werner, ed., *Encyclopedia of Mexico: History, Society & Culture*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1998.

Hellman, pp. 33-57

February 3 Selections from Gilbert Joseph and Timothy Henderson, eds. *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, and Politics*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2002. Available on both electronic and print reserve at Mansfield Library. They are grouped together under the title: The Search for "Lo Mexicano"

Editors, "The Search for "Lo Mexicano" pp. 9-10

Joel Poinsett, "The Mexican Character" pp. 11-14

José Vasconcelos, "The Cosmic Race" pp. 15-19

Octavio Paz, "The Sons of Malinche" pp. 20-27

Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, "The Problem of National Culture" pp. 28-32

Roger Bartra, "Does It Mean Anything to Be Mexican?" pp. 33-40

Alma Guillermoprieto, "Mexico City 1992" pp. 41-52

February 8 Selections from Gilbert Joseph and Timothy Henderson, eds. *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, and Politics*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2002. Available on both electronic and print reserve at Mansfield Library. They are grouped together under the title: The Perils of Modernity.

Editors, "The Perils of Modernity" pp. 461-3

Daniel Cosío Villegas, "Mexico's Crisis" pp. 470-481

Rubén Jaramillo, "Struggles of a Campesino Leader" pp. 482-491

Andrew Sackett, "The Two Faces of Acapulco during the Golden Age" pp. 500-510

Joel Simon, "The Sinking City" pp. 520-535

February 10 Opening Mexico, Preface and chaps 1-2

February 15 Opening Mexico, chap 3 and a reading by Elena Poniatowska, "The Student Movement of 1968." Available on both electronic and print reserve at Mansfield Library.

February 17 Film. No reading

February 22 Opening Mexico, chap 4 and a reading by Paul Haber, "The Asamblea de Barrios." This is a chapter from Paul Haber, *Power From Experience: Urban Popular Movements in Late 20th Century Mexico*. Forthcoming from Penn State University Press, 2005. The Haber reading can be found on Blackboard.

February 24 Opening Mexico, chaps 5 and 6

March 1 Opening Mexico, chaps 7 and 8

March 3 Opening Mexico, chaps 9 and 10

March 8 Opening Mexico, chaps 11 and 12

March 10 Opening Mexico, chaps 13 and 14

March 15 Study Review Session

March 17 Exam #1

March 29 Opening Mexico, chap 15 and three additional readings that can be found on electronic and print reserve at the Mansfield Library. They are grouped together under the title: The Zapatistas.

Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Mexico's Unfinished Symphony: The Zapatista Movement" from Joseph Tulchin and Andrew Sellee, eds., *Mexico's Politics and Society in Transition*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2003.

Zapatista Army of National Liberation, "EZLN Demands at the Dialogue Table" (from The Mexico Reader).

Subcomandante Marcos, "The Long Journey from Despair to Hope" (from The Mexico Reader).

Marián Peres Tsu, "A Tzotzil Chronicle of the Zapatista Uprising" (from the Mexican Reader).

March 31 Opening Mexico, chaps 16-17 and Epilogue

April 5 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chap 1

April 7 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 2-3

April 12 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 4-5

April 14 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 6-7

April 19 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 8 and 10

April 21 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 9 and 11

April 26 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 12 and 13

April 28 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chaps 14 and 16

May 3 Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico, chap 15

May 5 Exam Review

May 10 Exam #2 (1:10-3:10)

Blackboard Instructions

Accessing Your Online Course or Course Supplement:

On the beginning date of your course, you may login to the UOnline Blackboard Web site to access your supplement.

1. To find your official university username for Blackboard, login to Cyberbear and select Personal Information. Select View Email Addresses. Your username address is listed under the header Official University Student E-mail Account and is in the form fl123456@cue1.umt.edu. The first part of the account, before the @ symbol, is your username. Write this down as you will need it later.
2. Log out of Cyberbear.
3. Browse to <http://umonline.umt.edu>. Click on the Login button near the top lefthand corner of the page.
4. Enter your assigned username. Your password is your date of birth in six-digit format (for example, 062581 for June 25, 1981).

Accessing Your Official University Email Address:

Your UOnline instructor will use your official university email address, assigned by The University of Montana, to communicate with you. If you wish to use a different email address, go to personal information and it is easy to change it to wherever you would like.

To access your official university email address, browse to <http://cue1.umt.edu>. Your username is the same as your Blackboard username (see #1 above - Accessing Your Online Supplement). Your password is your Cyberbear PIN (Personal Identification Number). (Note: When you were admitted to UM, initially your PIN was your date of birth; you may have changed your PIN since then. Use your current PIN number to access your official university email address.)

Online courses and course supplements offer students convenience, flexibility and new approaches to learning. We hope that you have a successful learning experience.

Need help?

Technical assistance and email accounts:

CIS Help Desk: 406.243.4357, helpdesk@umontana.edu

UOnline login accounts:

Marvin Paulson: 406.243.6394, marvin.paulson@umontana.edu

General registration information:

Clare Kelly: 406.243.4626, clare.kelly@umontana.edu