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PSC 327.01: Politics of Mexico

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POLITICS OF MEXICO

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber 243-4862

Political Science Department, course #327

Spring 1998

Meets: TR 8:10 - 9:30

Office Hours: LA 355 Tuesdays 9:40 – 11:00 and Thursdays 3:40-5:00

Required texts available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

Judith Adler Hellman, *Mexico in Crisis*. Holmes & Meier, second edition, 1988.

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

William Orme, *Understanding NAFTA: Mexico, Free Trade, and the New North America*. University of Texas Press, 1996.

Some recommended readings:

National Geographic, Special Issue, *Emerging Mexico*. August 1996

Héctor Aguilar Camín and Lorenzo Meyer, *In the Shadow of the Mexican Revolution: Contemporary Mexican History, 1910-1989*. University of Texas Press, 1994.

Roderic Camp, *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 1996.

Stephen Morris, *Political Reformism in Mexico: An Overview of Contemporary Mexican Politics*. Lynne Rienner, 1995.

Jorge Domínguez and James McCann, *Democratizing Mexico: Public Opinion and Electoral Choices*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.

Tom Barry, *Crossing the Line: Immigrants, Economic Integration, and Drug Enforcement on the U.S.-Mexico Border*. Interhemispheric Resource Center Press, 1994.

Tom Barry, *Zapata's Revenge: Free Trade and the Farm Crisis in Mexico*. South End Press, 1995.

Richard Rodríguez, *Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father*. Penguin Books, 1992.

Judith Hellman, *Mexican Lives*. The New Press, 1994.

Maria Lorena Cook, *Organizing Dissent: Unions, the State, and the Democratic Teacher's Movement in Mexico*. Penn State Press, 1996.

Jorge Castañeda, *The Mexican Shock*. The New Press, 1995.

Gerardo Otero, ed., *Neoliberalism Revisited*. Westview, 1996.

Computer Links

There are a large number of web sites and e-mail news services that pertain to Mexico. Mexican newspapers can also be easily accessed. Here are a couple of sources. I am always on the look out for new sources, so please let me know if you find good stuff.

--MEXICAN LABOR NEWS AND ANALYSIS. MLNA can be viewed at the UE's international web site: [HTTP://www.igc.apc.org/unitedelect/](http://www.igc.apc.org/unitedelect/).

--MEXPAZ. To subscribe to a chapter of MEXPAZ, send to:

chapter-request@mixcoac.uia.mx
Subject: subscribe

where the word "chapter" is replaced by one of the chapter names listed below. MEXPAZ provides the following chapters:

SPANISH	ENGLISH
analisis	analysis
informacion	information
chiapas-esp	chiapas-eng
derechos	rights
solidaridad	solidarity

--For Mexican newspapers, simply use a search engine such as Yahoo and do a search for Mexican newspapers. There are a variety that are available. In Spanish, I would recommend beginning with La Jornada. In English, there is much less to choose from. Try The News. For those who read Spanish, I also highly recommend two journals: Proceso, which can be seen at www.proceso.com.mx/ and Nexos, which can be seen at www.nexos.com.mx/.

Your grade will be based on two exams (combined for 1/2 of total grade), class attendance, in-class assignments, and participation (1/4), and a group project (1/4). Students are required to read all assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Coming to class prepared means having read the material carefully and thoughtfully. It means having an interpretation or questions concerning the readings' main arguments. On occasion, students may be required to summarize the readings' main arguments as an in-class assignment. Students may miss three classes without explanation. After that, students must bring a typed statement explaining their absence. Make a serious effort to get to class on time. If you have a good reason for being late, convey it to me after class.

Each student will participate in a group project. The intent of the first projects will be to bring the Orme volume on NAFTA up-to-date in a number of subject areas. In other cases, students will be free to pursue a new topic or to further investigate a theme previously raised in the class.

Facilitators are required to hand out, *at least* one class prior to the facilitation, a set of questions that the class should keep in mind while doing the assigned reading. These questions should serve as the focus of the class facilitation. Students not presenting that day **are required** to come to class with typed responses to the questions posed by the presenting team.

Students have until February 24th to choose a date and topic. I will assign students that have not signed up by that date. If you would like to work on an open topic (May 7th and May 13th) you have until February 17th to propose possibilities to me. I will announce what the open topics are to be in class on February 19th.

Facilitators will hand in a typed, annotated bibliography on the outside readings. This is due on the day of the facilitation. The annotation should first summarize each reading's main arguments and methodology and then evaluate its strengths and/or weaknesses. Students should expect to refer *at least* three articles of substance or one book. By articles of substance I am referring to scholarly articles, not news report articles such as are found in journals such as Time, Newsweek, or the Economist. It is fine to include these in addition to more scholarly articles. While there is no required length for each annotation, it is unlikely that a good job could be done in less than one typed page per article. In most cases, the annotation will count for half of the group project grade.

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.

READING AND PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

- January 27 Adler Hellman, pp. 3-57
- January 29 Adler Hellman, pp. 59-102
- February 3 Adler Hellman, pp. 103-124 (Migration film)
- February 5 Adler Hellman, pp. 125-172
- February 10 Adler Hellman, pp. 173-215 (Boom and Bust film)
- February 12 Adler Hellman, pp. 217-269 and Neoliberalism (on reserve)
- February 17 Centeno, preface and chapters 1 & 2
- February 19 Centeno, chapters 3 & 4

- February 24 exam #1 workshop
- February 26 exam #1

- March 3 Library Research Day (I will arrange to have a special class given at the library on data bases.)

- March 5 Centeno, chapters 5 & 6
- March 10 Ceneno, chapters 7 - 9
- March 12 Orme, chapters 1 & 2
- March 24 Orme, chapters 3 & 4
- March 26 Orme, chapters 5 & 6
- April 2 Orme, chapters 7 & 8
- April 7 Orme, chapters 9 & 10
- April 9 Orme, chapters 11 & 12

- April 14 exam #2 workshop
- April 16 exam #2

Group Projects

April 21 group project: Economic affects on the United States (a general report on the American economy and how NAFTA and North American integration may have hindered and/or helped)

April 23 no class, due to the holding of the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies Conference being held here in Missoula. Details will be forthcoming regarding student attendance at the conference.

April 28 group project: Economic affects on Mexico (same as above).

April 30 group project: Administration and enforcement of NAFTA rules (should include but not be limited to side agreements for labor and environment).

May 5 group project: Drugs (a general report on drug trafficking between Mexico and the United States that includes but is not limited to an assessment of how NAFTA may have influenced the flow of drugs and the way it has been thought about and acted upon in Mexico and the United States)

May 7 group project: Open Topic

Wednesday May 13 group project: Open Topic