

<p>HIST 394 Spring 2011 T 1:10 PM-3:45 PM Comenius Hall, 411</p>	<p>Dr. Sandra Aguilar aguilars@moravian.edu Office: Comenius Hall 302 Office hours: M/W 3pm-4pm T/Th 9am-10am and by appointment</p>
--	--

MODERN MEXICO



Course Description

This course explores the creation of modern Mexico from a social and cultural perspective. It begins with an analysis of the independence war followed by a study of the difficulties faced by the new nation such as the Mexican-American War in which Mexico lost half of its territory to the United States. Then we examine the conditions generated by the dictatorship of General Porfirio Díaz who ruled the country for more than three decades and the resulting civil war: the Mexican revolution. We will look at the institutionalization of the social revolution, the rise of nationalism, and the social movements that have created present-day Mexico. The course concentrates on three main themes: race, gender, and nation-state formation. Our journey is based on the analysis of a vast array of primary sources and secondary sources which not only include official documents, newspapers, or images; but also literature, art, cinema, and other cultural manifestations.

Objectives

- Engage in active learning: a process in which students familiarize themselves with new information, analyze it, create their own interpretation, and express it in clear and well-structured arguments.
- Become critical, creative, and independent thinkers.
- Familiarize with various sources and with the historiography of modern Mexican history.
- Question your previous ideas about Mexico and expand your knowledge of this country.
- Learn to value diversity and the need of understanding different cultures in a globalized era.

Required books for purchase

Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*. Translated by Gustavo Pellón, Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2006.

Mary Kay Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution: Teachers, Peasants, and Schools in Mexico, 1930-1940*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1997.

Colin M. MacLachlan and Willian Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo: A History of Greater Mexico*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Films

The Young and the Damned, directed by Luis Buñuel, Mexico, 1950.

Red Dawn, directed by Jorge Fons, Mexico, 1989.

The Violin, directed by Francisco Vargas, Mexico, 2005.

Class Requirements and Classroom Policies

20% Participation and classroom work

- Attendance is not enough; you need to be proactive expressing your ideas and doubts and interacting with other classmates. Participation is essential to generate a rich and stimulating discussion and to maintain students involved and motivated.
- In order to facilitate participation you have to make all the readings before class and take notes about them in order to be prepared to ask questions, discuss, and reflect about the assigned material. Be ready to define the main arguments and ideas addressed in each document, give your opinion about the content and style of each text, and establish connections with what we have read so far and your previous knowledge and experience.
- Asking questions is also an essential element of the learning process, so do not feel ashamed about having doubts. One of the main goals of college education is to develop a critical mind and be able to see the world from various perspectives, so please do ask questions and express your dissent.
- Classroom work refers to written analysis of primary or secondary sources carried out during the class, as well as written feedback and group discussions.
- If you aim to get an A or A- you need to do all the readings. This is a very intense course, so please organize your study time so you can finish readings before the due date. **You need to get hold of the books as soon as possible.**

Research Paper

Throughout the semester you will carry out an in-depth monographic study about any topic of your interest related modern Mexico. Students will submit several assignments and present their progress in front of the class. Each stage is essential and should be given the importance of an independent assignment. At the end students will submit a dossier including all the previous work and present their final outcome.

10% Research Topic

Provide a tentative title, a 400-word description addressing the questions what, why, and how, and a bibliography including at least seven books or articles. Please look at the document providing guidance on how to write a bibliography under Information in the Blackboard site of this course.

15% Literature Review

A five-page long paper discussing the historiography on your topic. You will continue researching, reading and adding material for your final paper, however this literature review will be the first approach to your object of study revealing if you should follow a different line or explore other topic.

15% Research Project

A three-page long project including: title, introduction, outline or description of each section of your paper, and bibliography. The outline should include your argument and how are you going to develop it. You also need to show a clear understanding of the historiography, how it has changed and what does that change reveal.

5% Project Presentation

You will present your research project and will receive feedback from your classmates. Presentations should last 10 minutes, followed by a discussion.

15% First Draft of your final paper

Length: at least ten pages including introduction, conclusions and bibliography.

15% Final Draft plus dossier

Length: fifteen to twenty pages including introduction, conclusions and bibliography. You will submit all the previous stages of your research at this point.

5% Final research presentation

It should last 20 minutes and will take place the last two classes of the semester.

The accumulated points will be converted to letter grades using the following scale:

100-93% = A, 92-90% = A-, 89-87% = B+, 86-83% = B, 82-80% = B-, 79-77% = C+, 76-73% = C, 72-70% = C-, 69-67% = D+, 66-63% = D, 62-60% = D- Anything less than 60% is an F.

Five points will be deducted from each assignment's grade if it is submitted after the deadline and this deduction will be repeated for each consecutive late day after the assigned due date.

If you are unsure or would like some advice about a specific assignment, please come to my office hours at least one week before the due date.

Back up all your work (in your computer and an external drive) in order to avoid losing your files.

About sources

- You will use both primary and secondary sources in your research paper. Your work should reveal an in-depth analysis of your primary source and an clear understanding of the context and the historiography.
- Do not use internet sources in your research. The following are exceptions to this rule and may be used, since they are clearly of a scholarly nature:
 - Articles from full-text databases like JSTOR and Project Muse
<http://www.jstor.org/> and <http://muse.jhu.edu/>
 - Online primary sources (texts written by historical actors that have been re-published on the web).
 - Internet pages that I have approved well in advance, at least one week before turning in the assignment.
- Newspapers or magazines found on the internet can be used as primary sources rather than a substitute of scholarly articles or books.
- Videos and images from the internet are acceptable, but the above restrictions applied for other kind of material, please ask if unsure.
- Wikipedia is not a reliable source of information, so it is not acceptable to base your academic papers or presentations on it. Using Wikipedia will result in an “F”.
- Take advantage of the library collection and of interlibrary loans, which have to be ordered at least a couple of weeks before the date you plan to start working on them, so please plan ahead.
- For advice and inspiration see recommended websites under Information in the Blackboard site of this course.

A note about style

Please use Times New Roman font size 12, one-inch margins, and double-space in between lines in all your assignments. The student’s name, course number, and submission date should be typed in the upper left corner of the first page at single space. After this header, one blank line should appear before the assignment title, which should be followed by one blank line before beginning the assignment. Numerate your pages and staple your work. You should take advantage of Moravian College **Writing Center** located at the second floor of Zinzendorf. Telephone Number: 610-861-1592. (See link under Information in the Blackboard site of this course.)

Please submit your work in hard copy at class time. I will not accept assignments or papers sent via email.

About attendance and classroom etiquette

- The attendance policy for this course is strict. Only TWO unexcused absences are allowed in the semester. To justify an absence you must provide a doctor’s note or a written explanation from an athletics coach. If a student plans to arrive more than five minutes late to class, he or she might consider making other arrangements or inform me in advance and arrive in a non-disruptive manner. Illness on an exam date will be excused only with a doctor’s note.
- As a courtesy to the class, please be on time. Lateness will affect your participation grade.
- If you need to go to the restroom, please do so before or after the class, or during the ten-minute break that we will have. Restrain from leaving the classroom unless it is extremely necessary.

- You should not carry on conversations in class, even if they happen to be related to the topic. Even if such conversations are relatively quiet and do not seem to disturb anyone nearby, they can be distracting and rude to the professor. So if you have something to say or ask, please share it with the rest of the class.
- **Please turn off your cell phones during class. No texting will be tolerated.**
- Contact me in advance (at least one week before the due date) if you have queries about assignments.
- Deadlines are not negotiable.

Students with disabilities

- Students with disabilities (e.g., learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, neurological disorders, health, physical, mobility, hearing, visual, mental health/psychiatric) should contact the assistant director of learning services for disability support for further assistance and information. Telephone: 610 861-1510.

Readings and films

- All readings should be completed before coming to class. It is essential that you bring your readings and your notes to every class as we will routinely refer to both.
- Films will be available in the Blackboard site of this course. You are responsible for watching assigned films outside class hours and be prepared to discuss them in class. I will post questions for you to answer beforehand. Films can only be watched on campus, so plan accordingly.
- The required books are available for purchase at the bookstore.

Blackboard site and email communication

- If you are asked an enrollment code to access the Blackboard site of this course please type “mexico”
- Everyone is responsible for visiting the Blackboard site of this course where you will find:
 - The course syllabus
 - Questions about the films
 - Recommended websites
 - Referencing and writing advice
 - Important announcements and information
- I will send you relevant information and contact you when necessary only through your Moravian email account. I also expect you to contact me through your college email rather than your personal email.
- If you need to discuss something with me, please come to my office hours or set an appointment.

Academic honesty

- Moravian College does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat.
- Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional.
- Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should simply be cited.

- For a more detailed explanation on plagiarism please see the “Academic Honesty at Moravian College” link under Academic Life at the Student Handbook website.
- If you have questions about how to reference others’ works you should look at the referencing advice and explore the suggested websites in the Blackboard site of this course.
- Students suspected of plagiarism or cheating will automatically receive an “F” in the course and will be reported to the appropriate school authorities.

Extra Credit

If you would like to receive five extra points you are encouraged to participate in the Student Scholarship Day and Creative Endeavors Day. Students may present a poster or do 15-20 minute presentations of their work. In the case of our class, that work will be about your research paper. Please let me know if you decide to take this opportunity. The date for our 2011 Scholarship Day is Tuesday, April 19th. I will send out a Call for Proposals in early February, with a mid-March deadline, still to be determined.

Please do not hesitate to speak directly with me if you have any questions about any of the assignments and/or requirements for the class.

SCHEDULE

1/18 Course overview

- Syllabus and grading
- Analysis of primary sources.

1/25 The Politics of the Early Republic

Write a reaction to the course syllabus. Include at least two comments, which can be in the form of doubts.

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, introduction, chap. 1, 2 and 3, pp. XVII-62.

2/1 Liberals vs Conservatives

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 3-4, pp. 62-136.

2/8 The Porfiriato

Due: Research Topic

Library session. We will meet at the computer lab on the main floor of the library, right next to the Reference Desk. The session will last around 45 minutes, after which we will go back to our classroom.

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 5-6, pp. 137-210.

2/15 Prelude to Revolution

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 6-7, pp. 184-246.

2/22 Mexican Revolution

Discussion based on the film *The Young and the Damned*. Bring answers to questions posted on Blackboard

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 8, pp. 247-293.
- Azuela, *The Underdogs*, pp. 1-21.

3/1 Making a Revolution Work

Due: Literature Review

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 9, pp. 294-337.
- Azuela, *The Underdogs*, pp. 21-54.

3/8 No classes Spring Recess

3/15 Cultural Politics in Revolution

Due: Research Project and Presentations

- Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution*, pp. 3-46.
- Azuela, *The Underdogs*, pp. 54-87.

3/22 Translating Cultural Policy

- Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution*, pp. 47-105.

3/29 The Revolution Becomes the Miracle

Discussion based on the film *Red Dawn* Bring answers to questions posted on Blackboard

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 10, pp. 338-376.
- Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution*, pp. 107-136.

4/5 Educated by Bullets

Due: First Draft

- Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution*, pp. 137-188.

4/12 After the Miracle

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 11, pp. 377-415.
- Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution*, pp. 189-201.

4/19 A Day Without the Revolution

Discussion based on the film *The Violin*. Bring answers to questions posted on Blackboard

- MacLachlan and Beezley, *El Gran Pueblo*, chap. 12, pp. 416-492.

4/ 26 Presentations and Final Reflections

**Due: Final Paper and Dossier
Project Presentations**

Classes End: April 30

DEADLINES

Assignment	Due Dates
Write a reaction to the syllabus	January 25
Research Topic	February 8
Discussion based on the film <i>The Young and the Damned</i>	February 22
Literature Review	March 1
Research Project	March 15
Project Presentations	March 15
Discussion based on the film <i>Red Dawn</i>	March 29
First Draft	April 5
Discussion based on the film <i>The Violin</i>	April 19
Scholarship Day	April 19
Final Paper and Dossier	April 26
Final Presentations	April 26

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus. In those instances, I will give timely notification in class.