Course Introduction

Welcome! This is a college-level introduction to the history of Mexico.

The goal of the course is to help you understand the most significant social, political, and economic developments in Mexico since the first inhabitants arrived to the present. The course will focus on the way the economy, culture, race, ethnicity, class, and gender shaped understandings of social inclusion and exclusion. Along the way, you will hone your critical thinking and writing skills. By the end of the course, you will be expected to identify, describe, analyze, and synthesize the components most influential to the historical development of Mexico.

This course, while not difficult, does require you to carefully organize your life so that you can have sufficient time to successfully complete the work. You will accomplish the above goals through successful completion of readings, written assignments, and examinations.

Moreover, active online participation is essential to your success. I strongly encourage you to ask questions. Framing questions is part of the learning process, and I believe that sometimes a good question is more interesting that the answer it may elicit.

I assume that you are highly motivated and disciplined students that know how to budget your time and can work without being constantly prompted by the instructor.
**Expected Student Learning Outcomes**

What follows are the minimum course level student learning objectives. By the end of the semester students should comfortably address these objectives in essays and exams.

1. Demonstrate factual knowledge of key political, economic, social and cultural events, and issues in the history;

2. Apply critical thinking (including causal analysis and skeptical inquiry) to historical concepts and developments in history;

3. Evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, and make historical arguments based on these sources.

**Your Responsibilities**

Successful students accept personal responsibility for their performance in an academic class. They are self-motivated to succeed and have mastered the art of time-management. The work for this class is designed to correspond to that expected for a three-unit college course.

In addition to attending actively and participating in our class discussions and communications, successful students will keep current with our assigned reading as opposed to scrambling to catch up right before an exam.

This course requires students to spend significant time on working on their own, to actively work on their writing skills, to take detailed notes of their readings, and to review those notes regularly. Although the time required for success varies greatly from student to student, have reasonable expectations and plan to make accommodations to spend adequate time on this course. Ensure you are ready to fully accept the responsibilities of this class.

If you fail to provide yourself with the necessary time to complete the assignments for this course, little else will matter. Contact me immediately if you are having problems understanding any of the material, the assignments, or the organization of the course.

**Course Materials**


**Additional Readings:** I will supply you with a series readings designed to supplement learning. The assignments, and readings to which they are linked, vary in nature and length and their specific instructions and format will be provided in them. Assignments are designed to enhance your learning experience and your performance in the quizzes and exams.

**By enrolling in this class:**

1. You agree to uphold MJC's standards of academic integrity.
2. You agree to adhere to MJC's standards of conduct.
3. You agree that you have an average of 8-9 hours each week to spend on readings and assignments.
4. You agree to complete all work and be available for the exams listed in this syllabus.
5. You agree to periodically review your grade in Canvas (under “My Grades”) and contact me immediately if you identify an error.
6. You agree to contact me at any point if you have questions or need extra guidance with your learning.
7. You agree to arrive to the “attendance” policy in this course.
8. You agree to participate if working in a team.
9. You understand it is your responsibility to drop the class if necessary.
Grading

There is a total of 885 points in this course. The total number of points you earn throughout the term will determine your grade. At the end of the term, the following point scale will be used:

- 885 - 796 points = A (100-90%)
- 795 - 708 points = B (89-80%)
- 707 - 619 points = C (79-70%)
- 618 - 531 points = D (69-60%)
- Below 531 = F (< 60%)

How to Earn Your Points

Assignments = 285 points

Assignments are analytical written responses to detailed instructions available in the weekly folders that will demonstrate students' mastery of the synthesis and analysis of written sources, arguably our most important course objective.

Reflections = 150 points

Reflections are intended to elicit your opinion, insights, questions, and concerns about the material you are reading. Reflections are a bit more informal than other assignments in the sense that it allows us to have a “conversation” about your interest. Each reflection should be no shorter than 250.

Final Exam = 200 points

There is ONE major assessment in this class.

Mini-Tests = 150 points

Mini-Tests are a combination of multiple-choice, identifications, and short-answer questions. Each week you will receive a Mini-Test Study Guide to help you prepare for it.

Essay = 100 points

The Essay is MANDATORY. The assignment is a 1,200-word (4 double-spaced pages) essay. The paper will ask you to reflect on what you’ve learned about Mexican history in this class. I will post detailed instructions three weeks before the end of the term.
Online Courses

This is an online course and you will be expected to use a computer to read the study guides, to download the weekly reading material, to complete all work (quizzes, group work, etc.).

During the first days of the course you may experience some difficulties adjusting to the new environment and to my requirements. Please be patient with any technological problem(s) that you may encounter during the semester.

Many of the technical problems in Canvas are linked to the way you set up your computer’s software. I have designed some practice assignments during the first week of classes so that you can quickly work out the kinks in your system. I urge you to complete the practice assignments during the first week of classes.

If you cannot figure out the technical difficulties affecting your computer contact the Help Desk for Online Students. The Online Help Desk can be reached by e-mail at onlinehelpdesk@yosemite.edu or by calling (209) 575-6412.

My first suggestion is that you adjust your virus software or TURN OFF pop-up blockers that may prevent you from working in Canvas (many pop-up program blockers allow you to selectively choose which domains to allow pop-ups from).

It is your responsibility to learn how to navigate and work with Canvas as quickly as possible. I am at your disposal for any questions that you may have, although my technical abilities are limited.

Netiquette

for successful web interaction

Quick (N)etiquette Guide:
1. stick to the topic
2. use subject titles
3. keep it short
4. use emoticons 😊
5. avoid shouting
6. share the floor
7. reply with messages
8. check it’s ready to send
9. no flaming/bashing
10. avoid plagiarism

Collaborative Work:
1. get involved
2. join the discussion
3. include everyone
4. send friendly reminders
5. ask questions
6. listen

Professional Communication

1. Be respectful
   a. Share the floor
   b. Acknowledge before differing
   c. Avoid offending others

2. Write effectively
   a. Find your own voice
   b. Stick to the topic
   c. Use subject lines
   d. Keep it short

3. Avoid Common Errors
   a. Did I say that?
   b. Shouting
   c. Flaming
   d. Exclusionary online text language

4. Stop problems
   a. Let someone know
   b. Ask questions

5. Making it interesting
   a. Add a human touch

6. Keep it legal
   a. Acknowledge the original author
   b. Avoid plagiarism
Course Policies

**Attendance:** This class has an “ATTENDANCE” policy. Attendance is a condition of good standing. Students must log-in at least twice a week on different days AND complete all work (quizzes, assignments, etc.). Failure to do so will result in being dropped from the course.

**Dropping the Course:** Contact me before you drop the course.

**“Classroom” Expectations:** I am responsible for maintaining order in our online community. Because this is college, there is an expectation that you will conduct yourself always in a manner respectful of our learning environment. To this end, any behavior that is disruptive to the learning of others will not be tolerated (i.e. inappropriate or disrespectful expressions or exchanges). Students whose behavior is disruptive to the instructor or other students will be asked to drop the course and/or reported to Student Services for appropriate action.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Some students, consciously or not, improperly copy or paraphrase the work of published authors or of other students. This is plagiarism. The penalty for such forms of academic dishonesty, intentional or not, is severe. I expect you to use your own words always and to never copy material from the Internet, books, or other sources unless they are properly used and cited. The instructor has ample resources to detect material copied from the Internet; anyone caught plagiarizing will be given an automatic F for the assignment and will be reported to the school administration for disciplinary action. Students should become familiar with the guidelines for correct citations in history. Unfortunately for college students, ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an excuse for an academic integrity violation. Students with any questions regarding the nature of academic honesty or plagiarism must address them to me during the first week of instruction. The consequences for violations of Academic Integrity are spelled out in the Modesto Junior Catalog.

**Academic Accommodations for Student with Disabilities:** Students with verified disabilities who require academic accommodations (including additional time for exams) should present their Student Educational Contract and discuss their accommodations with me as soon as possible. Bring your DSPS contract so that I can sign it. The office of Disability Services is in the Journalism Building, Room 160. Phone 209.575.6225.
This schedule is subject to change. However, exams and discussion dates will NOT change. The textbook chapter readings assigned in the Course Calendar do not include the additional reading, audio-visual, and other material posted in each learning module.

1. All discussions, quizzes, and exams are due by 11:59 p.m. of the due day. If you see something different, contact me A.S.A.P.
2. You can retake quizzes ONCE. I will use the higher score in the calculation of your grade.
3. DSPS students: You need to contact me immediately and email me with a scanned copy of your Student Educational Contract (SEC). I will tweak the settings so that you are allotted the agreed upon time extension.
4. I will NOT reset quizzes; you are already given two chances to take each quiz.
5. You may turn in your main post for assignments up to 48 hours late; however, you will be docked 5 points from the grade you get. After 48 hours I reserve the right to assign you a zero.
6. The Thought Paper and Final Exam are MANDATORY.
7. If you have a justified emergency, contact me immediately.

### Week 1, May 8 – May 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Due Thursday, 5/11: Assignment 1: Getting to Know Each Other (10 points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due Friday, 5/12: Assignment 1.2: Letter to Future Self (25 points)</td>
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<td>Due Saturday, 5/13: Reflection Chapters 1, 2 (25 points)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Due Sunday, 5/14: Mini-Test Chapters 1, 2 (26 pts.)</td>
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### Week 2, May 15 – May 21

| Chs. 3, 4, 5 | Due Friday, 5/19: Assignment 2 (50 pts.) |
|             | Due Saturday, 5/20: Reflection Chapters 3, 4, 5 (25 pts.)              |
|             | Due Sunday, 5/21: Mini-Test Chapters 3, 4, 5 (25 points)               |

### Week 3, May 22 – May 28

| Chs. 6, 7   | Due Friday, 5/26: Assignment 3 (50 pts.) |
|            | Due Saturday, 5/27: Reflection Chapters 6, 7 (25 pts.)                 |
|            | Due Sunday, 5/28: Mini-Test Chapters 6, 7 (25 pts.)                    |

### Week 4, May 29 – June 4

| Chs. 8, 9   | Due Friday, 6/2: Assignment 4 (50 pts.)                                 |
|            | Saturday, 6/3: Reflection Chapters 8, 9 (25 points)                     |
|            | Due Sunday, 6/4: Mini-Test Chapters 8, 9 (25 points)                   |

### Week 5, June 5 – June 11

| Chs. 10, 11, 12 | Due Friday, 6/9: Assignment 5 (50 pts.)  |
|                | Due Saturday, 6/10: Reflection Chapters 10, 11, 12 (25 pts.)          |
|                | Due Sunday, 6/11: Mini-Test Chapters 10, 11, 12 (25 pts.)             |

### Week 6, June 12 – June 18

| Chs. 13, 14   | Due Thursday, 6/15: Assignment 6 (50 pts.)  |
|              | Due Saturday, 6/17: Reflection Chapters 13, 14 (25 pts.)               |
|              | Due Sunday, 6/18: Mini-Test Chapters 13, 14 (25 points)                |

### Week 7, June 19 – June 23

| Chs. 15      | Due Wednesday, 6/21: Assignment 7 (50 points)  |
|             | Due Friday, 6/23: Final Exam (200 points)      |