

History 399: The U.S. & Mexico

2014 Summer Session, June 23-July 16

Time: MTWU 4:00-5:50pm

Instructor: Feather Crawford

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Office Hours: M 1:30-3:30

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Course Description

This course will look at the relationship between Mexico and the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, its origins and influences, and how it changed over time. Of particular interest will be political, economic, social, and ideological points of intersection, as well as the contact zones, conflicts, and exchanges in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. The content of the course will be divided in two sections, the first dedicated to the nineteenth century and the second to the twentieth century.

Week One will explore the legacies of colonialism and independence in the U.S. and Mexico, the early diplomatic relations of the two countries, and contact between Americans and Mexicans in the Mexican North, primarily Tejas/Texas. Historical questions for this week will include: How did the ideology of republicanism influence the development within Mexico and the U.S., as well as their interactions? What role did race, racialization, and settler colonialism play in the relationship between the two nations?

Week Two will focus on the origins and consequences of the U.S.-Mexico War in 1848. Questions guiding this week will be: Why did Texas secede from Mexico and how was Texas independence viewed by Mexicans and Americans? What role did Native Americans and Indigenous Mexicans play in the loss of Mexican territory to the United States? How did the U.S.-Mexico War create the conditions for civil wars in both nations? How and why did the U.S.-Mexico relationship change during the regime of Porfirio Diaz?

In Week Three, we will move on to twentieth century and discuss the Mexican Revolution, labor and immigration policies in the U.S., and the massacre of Mexican students in Tlatelolco in 1968 and ask: How did racial ideologies and economic priorities inform early 20th century U.S. immigration and border control policies? How did the Great Depression, WWII, and the Cold War influence the relationship between the two countries? How did the U.S. involvement in the Tlatelolco Massacre signify the changing relationship between the U.S. and Mexico in the second half of the 20th century?

The final week will focus on the political economy of the U.S.-Mexico border in the later decades of the twentieth century. We will try to answer the following questions: In the 1980s, how did the advent of Reaganomics in the U.S. and the collapse of the economy in Mexico result in neoliberalism, increased Mexican immigration to the U.S., and changes for the Mexican family? What factors have shaped U.S. and Mexican policies on immigration reform and the Drug War? What are the effects of these policies on everyday life in Mexico?

Required Text

The required text for the class, *Major Problems in the History of North American Borderlands: Documents and Essays* (MP-NAB), edited by Pekka Hämäläinen and Benjamin H. Johnson, is available at the UO Duckstore and online. Additional assigned reading will be available on Blackboard (BB).

Course Requirements

Attendance & Participation: 5 points
Quizzes (two): 10 points
Reading Questions (two): 10 points
Document exercises (three): 15 points
Term Paper: 35 points
Final Exam: 25 points

Classroom Policies

1. Attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance daily and this will be part of your class participation grade. One or two absences will not affect your grade, but more than five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in the class.
2. In class, I expect students to be respectful to each other and to the instructor. Please turn off all electronic devices before class begins. In a small class that will feature discussion, laptops are probably not necessary, but if you do want to take notes on your computer, know that you can only use your laptop for notes and not for surfing the internet.
3. Plagiarism, defined as “the inclusion of someone else’s product, words, ideas, or data as one’s own work,” will be punished severely.
4. You will be responsible for one term paper, due on Monday of week 4 (July 14). Late papers will be graded down a full letter grade for every day that the paper is late.
5. Two sets of reading questions will draw from assigned secondary material.
6. There will be two in-class quizzes, both of which will be based on material covered in the readings and in lecture.
7. There will be three in-class document exercises that will require primary sources analysis.
8. The final exam on July 17 will be comprehensive and include both short ID and longer essay questions.

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading

WEEK ONE

Monday, June 23: Introduction to Course, Concepts, and Topics

Tuesday, June 24: Colonial Legacies in the Age of Revolution

Reading

Chapter 4: Document 3, Chapter 5: Weber, “New Spain and Its Borderlands,”
Furstenburg, “Anglo-America and Its Borderlands,” Document 3 & 6 (MP-NAB)

Wednesday, June 25: New Republics and Hemispheric Diplomacy

Reading

Madison, “Federalist 10” (BB), Poinsett, “The Present Political State of Mexico,” excerpts (BB), *The U.S.-Mexico War: A Binational Reader*, Document 1: The Imperial Colonization Law (1823), (BB)
Paper Workshop #1

Thursday, June 26: Race on the Frontier and Illegal Immigrants in the Mexican North

Reading

Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny*, (BB), Chapter 7: Introduction, Documents 1-7 (MP-NAB)
Reading Questions #1

WEEK TWO

Monday, June 30: The Texas Republic and the Comanche Empire

Readings

Hämäläinen, “Ecological Change and Indigenous Imperialism in the Southwest Borderlands” (MP-NAB), *The U.S.-Mexico War*, Documents 2-15: Settlement, Independence, and Annexation of Texas and the Road to War, (BB)
Document Exercise #1

Tuesday, July 1: The War of Northern Intervention

Reading

Delay, “How Indians Shaped the Era of the U.S.-Mexico War” (MP-NAB), *The U.S.-Mexico War*, Documents 16-30: Scenes and Politics of War, (BB)
Document Exercise #2
Quiz # 1

Wednesday, July 2: A Tale of Two Civil Wars

Reading

Benito Juarez, “The Triumph of the Republic” (BB), Luis Gonzales y Gonzalez, “The Liberals and the Land” (BB), *The U.S.-Mexico War*, Documents 30-40: Legacies of War, (BB)

Thursday, July 3: The Porfiriato in a Gilded Age

Reading

Creelman, “President Díaz, Hero of the Americas” (BB), Kenneth Turner, “The Porfirian Plunderbund” (BB), Wasserman, “Foreign Investment in Mexico, 1876-1910” (BB)
Paper Workshop #2
Due: Paper topic, thesis, and bibliography

WEEK THREE

Monday July 7: The Mexican Revolution

Reading

Wilson, "The Pact of the Embassy" (BB), Reed, "Pancho Villa" Selections (BB),
"US-Mexico Correspondence regarding the Punitive Expedition" (BB),
Zimmermann, "The Zimmermann Telegram" (BB), Burns, "The Mexican
Explosion" (BB)

Tuesday, July 8: Immigration, Migration, and Race Revisited

Reading

Chapter 11: Documents 1, 3, 6, 7, 8
Chapter 13: Introduction, Documents 1-3, Ngai, "Deportation Policy and the
Making and Unmaking of Illegal Aliens" (MP-NAB)

Wednesday, July 8: Good Neighbors, The Mexican Miracle, and the Age of Consensus

Reading

Moreno, *Yankee Don't Go Home!*, excerpts (BB)
Chapter 13, Document 3-6, Hernandez, "The Crimes and Consequences of Illegal
Immigration" (MP-NAB)
Reading Questions #2

Thursday, July 9: The 1960s

Reading

Scott, "Night of Tlatelolco" (BB)
Paper Workshop #3

WEEK FOUR

Monday, July 14: Crime and the Border

Reading

Chapter 12, Introduction, Documents 1, 2 & 4-7, Recio, "U.S. Prohibition and the
Drug Trade in Mexico" (MP-NAB)
Due: Paper
Document Exercise #3

Tuesday, July 15: People and the Border

Reading

Ellingwood, *Hard Line*, excerpts (BB), Chapter 14, Introduction, Documents 1-8,
Fitzgerald, "The Stranger or the Prodigal Son?" (MP-NAB)
Quiz #2

Wednesday, July 16: Discussion and Review

Thursday, July 17: Final Exam