

LAH 4930: Conflict and Rebellion in Mexico  
Spring 2017  
Keene-Flint 121, Mondays 3-6 p.m.

Professor Ida Altman  
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Hours: Tuesdays 10-noon  
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Mexico is a remarkably diverse country whose history has been marked by episodes of conflict and violence since Europeans arrived there in 1519. Conquest, indigenous rebellions, and revolts of African-descended peoples marked the colonial period, and wars for independence, conflict with the French and the United States, and struggles between conservatives and liberals helped to define Mexico as a nation in the nineteenth century. The legacy of the Mexican Revolution in the early twentieth century continues to challenge and define Mexico to the present day, although it did not put an end to conflict and protest.

During the semester we will consider episodes of conflict in Mexican history, with class discussion focusing mainly on primary documents. You will be asked to write short papers (1-2 pages) on assigned weekly readings and to prepare questions for discussion. Your main work for the semester will be to research and write a paper on a topic of your choosing related to the theme of the seminar, based mostly on primary sources. Required books for the class include collections of documents in translation, some of which we will discuss in class. You should be able to find many other sources in both English and Spanish, online and in the library (see last page of the syllabus). In choosing a paper topic be sure to do some preliminary investigation into available sources so you can be sure of having sufficient primary materials. Please consult me about your topic.

**Assignments.** You will submit a written statement of your paper topic (2/13), an annotated bibliography (2/27), a preliminary draft of the paper (by 3/27), and a final draft of the paper, due on the last day of class (4/17), when you will also make a presentation of your topic. The final version of your paper should be around 15 pages in length, with notes and bibliography. During the semester there will be opportunities to share and discuss your topics and preliminary drafts of the paper. There will be no exams.

**Grades** will be weighted as follows:

Short assignments and annotated bibliography, 30 percent; class participation and oral presentation, 30 percent; final paper, 40 percent. Unexcused absences will count against the final grade.

If you are in this class you are close to the end of your undergraduate career at UF. By now you should have a good understanding of plagiarism and its consequences. Any instance of plagiarism will be taken seriously and *at a minimum* will result in a zero for the specific assignment. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> Any student with a disability should discuss it with me as soon as possible and should be registered with the Disabilities Resource Center of the Dean of Students Office.

## Required readings

You should purchase the following books. Some additional readings will be assigned. Readings that are available electronically through the library web site are indicated by \*.

Jurgen Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic: A Brief History of Mexico*

Stuart B. Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished*

Gilbert Joseph and Timothy Henderson, *The Mexico Reader*

Mark Wasserman, *The Mexican Revolution. A Brief History with Documents*

Week 1: January 9 Introduction

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, Introduction and Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished*, Part 1

(No class on January 16, MLK Day)

2: January 23 Perspectives on the conquest

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, pp. 9-27; Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished*, Part Two: 2 'Preparations,' 4 'The March Inland,' 6 'Things Fall Apart,' 7 'The Siege and Fall of Tenochtitlan'

3: January 30 Indigenous revolts

Readings on Nueva Galicia and the Tepehuan and Tzeltal rebellions (to be provided)

\*Susan Schroeder, *Native Resistance and the Pax Colonial in New Spain*, Chs.1 and 3

4: February 6 Conflict and society during the colonial period

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, 27-35; reading on Mexico City riot of 1624 (to be provided)

\*Irving Leonard, *Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora, a Mexican savant of the seventeenth century*; excerpt from letter to Admiral Pez, pp. 233-277 (eBook)

\*William B. Taylor, "The Foundation of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Morenos de Amapa," *The Americas* 26:4 (1970): 439-446

5: February 13 Independence and beyond

*The Mexico Reader*, pp. 169-238; Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, pp. 37-44; \*Eric Van

Young, "Islands in the Storm: Quiet Cities and Violent Countrysides in the Mexican Independence Era," *Past and Present*, No. 118 (1988); \*Silvia Arrom, "Popular Politics

in Mexico City: The Parian Riot, 1828," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 68/2 (1988)

**Discuss paper topics in class and submit a written statement of your topic**

6: February 20 War with the United States

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, pp. 44-53; \*Peter Guardino, "Gender, Soldiering, and Citizenship in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848," *American Historical Review*

119/1 (2014); Documents of the U.S.-Mexican War (dmwv.org): read the four 'Speeches and Proclamations' and 'Battle Reports'

Film: *History of Mexico* 3

7: February 27 Reform, French intervention and Porfiriato

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, pp. 53-77 and Chapter 3; *The Mexico Reader*, pp. 252-292

\*Sara Yorke Stevenson, *Maximilian in Mexico: a woman's reminiscences of the French intervention* (eBook), pp, 1-16, 24-44, 66-92, 125-131, 150-158, 168-176, 188-206, 256-260; Appendices A and B (pp. 309-319)

**Submit annotated bibliographies**

(No class March 6, spring break)

8: March 13 The coming of the revolution

*The Mexico Reader*, pp. 273-291; Wasserman, *The Mexican Revolution*, Part One and Part Two, Section 1, Documents 1-3, 6-8

Film: *The Storm that Swept Mexico*

9: March 20 The revolution

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, pp. 78-89; *The Mexico Reader*, photo essay and pp. 333-397; Wasserman, *The Mexican Revolution*, Part Two, Sections 2-4

10: March 27 Revolution's aftermath

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, pp. 89-104; Wasserman, *The Mexican Revolution*, Part Two, Sections 5-7; *The Mexico Reader*, pp. 399-405, 411-417, 421-427, 439-469, 482-491

**First drafts of papers are due**

11: April 3 Individual meetings to discuss paper drafts

12: April 10 Mexico since the Revolution

Buchenau, *Mexican Mosaic*, Chapter 5; *The Mexico Reader*, pp. 555-569, 618-669

Film: *The Sixth Sun: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas*

13: April 17 **Class presentations and final papers due**

Some sites and sources for documents in English:

guides.lib.berkeley.edu has links to 'The Mexican-American War and the Media' (transcriptions of newspaper articles and other documents relating to the war) and 'Tlaltelolco Massacre' (CIA and other documents relating to violence and Olympic Games in Mexico, 1968)

libguides.msmary.edu (links to many online collections on Latin America, including some on Mexico)

history.state.gov – Foreign Relations of the United States documentary series, going back to the 1860s

Christopher Conway, *The U.S.-Mexican War: A Binational Reader*

Charles Wilson Hackett, *The Revolt of the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico* (eBook)