

HISTORY (CRN 32230)/LALS (CRN 32233) 266 -- SPRING 2019
MEXICO SINCE 1850
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 5:00-6:15, 308 Burnham Hall
CLASS WEBSITE: <https://uic.blackboard.com/>

INSTRUCTORS:

Chris Boyer

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, 3:00-4:00 and Wednesday 9:00-10:00

Or by appointment... just e-mail me!

Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-4:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS:

This course provides an introduction into the social, cultural, and political history of Mexico from the decades after independence to the present. We will read texts written by the people who have made history in Mexico and by people who have studied that history. We will also read a textbook, a memoir, a history, and a novel. The primary goal of this class is to understand the people and events that have shaped modern Mexico. We cannot do that simply by memorizing a bunch of facts, though a solid understanding of historical continuities and changes is a necessary first step. Rather, I expect you to learn about the causes and effects of historical change. I also emphasize the reading of books and historical documents because learning to master these sources and make sense of them – whether through exams or essays – is a skill that will not only enhance your understanding of history but will develop critical skills more generally. Finally, the course aims to improve your writing skills, through blogs, papers, and even the writing of a “historical” newspaper. None of this is easy. You will need to spend between two and five hours per week reading, about the same time writing, and of course to attend class regularly. In exchange, you will develop new knowledge and new skills, both of which I hope will serve you well long after the class is over.

REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE:

The following texts and equipment is required for this course. You can buy them online, or at the UIC Bookstore in Student Center East.

Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*, trans, Ilán Stavans. New York: Norton, 2015. **Please buy this edition.**

Susan Deeds, Michael Meyer, and William L. Sherman, *The Course of Mexican History*, 11th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. **NOTE: You can rent this title; also, the 10th edition is perfectly fine as well, but please do not use an earlier one.**

Reyna Grande, *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir*. New York: Washington Square Press, 2012.

Paul Sullivan, *Xuxub Must Die: The Lost Histories of a Murder on the Yucatán*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004.

Some weeks, we will have reading packets available on Blackboard as well.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Essays (3)	30%	(10% each)
Newspaper Projects (2)	20%	(10% each)
Quizzes	15%	
Take-Home Final Exam	20%	
Online Participation	15%	

Papers: I will post paper assignments two weeks before they are due. Papers must be turned in **on Blackboard** by 5:00 on the days shown in the calendar. Please do not e-mail them or turn in hard copies to me or your teaching assistant; we will not accept them. Late papers can be turned in, but one full letter grade (10 points) will be deducted for each day (not each class session) that it is late. I do give 48-hour paper extensions for extenuating circumstances **but only once per semester and only if you contact me BEFORE the paper is due so that we can discuss the situation**. Do not assume you can just e-mail me to tell me the paper will be late.

You may revise and turn in either the first or second paper but not the third. A good revision will raise the grade one level (from a B to a B+, for example). An excellent revision will raise the grade one whole letter (from a B to an A or from an A- to an A with 1 point of extra credit, for example). Revisions are due one week after the paper is returned to you.

We are happy to read early drafts of papers, as long as you get it to us a few days before the due date. Another strategy is to run it by the [UIC Writing Center](#) before turning in the final draft. Be sure to schedule your visit there in advance if you are able.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance, active engagement, and an average of 100 pages of reading per week are all required for this course. You are responsible for coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings; your participation will be part of the final grade. We will also have a number of in-class quizzes, **some but not all of which** will be announced beforehand and can be found on the calendar below. They cannot be made up except in the case of a documented medical or family emergency or a university-recognized religious observance or required event.

We will take roll using in the first five minutes of lecture sections. Anyone who is not present for these roll calls will be counted as absent. The final grade for this course is calculated on a 100 point scale; every absence **except the first one** will result in a 1 point deduction from your final score.

Absences can only be excused for required UIC events, [university-recognized religious holidays](#), and verifiable medical emergencies to you or your immediate family. If you have to miss a class and believe it should be excused, please contact me within a week of the absence so we can discuss it.

Blackboard: We make extensive use of the [Blackboard website](#) in this course. You are responsible for learning how to log into Blackboard and use its features, and you will need to make arrangements to access it to upload lecture notes, check your grades, and turn in writing assignments.

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit by attending **up to two** UIC-sponsored events relating to history, Mexico, or Latin American and Latino Studies. I will announce most of these events in class or on Blackboard, but you can find most of them at the websites maintained by the [Department of History](#), the [Program in Latin American and Latino Studies](#) and the [Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center](#). To get credit, you need to turning in a 1-page response paper in to your TA within a week of attending these events. Please note that if you want to attend two events during the semester, you must attend the first one before October 16.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

I encourage you to share your thoughts with each other both in and out of class as well as online. After all, the issues we will discuss have far more than merely "academic" value, so learn widely and teach others what you know! But for all graded materials for this course, I want you to develop your own skills. Please do your own work, think your own thoughts, and write your own words. It is fine to quote from books, articles, websites, and other texts in the papers and exams in this course but if you do, **be sure to acknowledge any use of someone else's words or ideas** by adding a footnote or some other form of reference mark. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, which the University defines as "Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." I don't want to police anyone's written work, but consider this fair warning that I feel strongly about the issue of plagiarism, and the university has clear policies on academic integrity.

All assignments will be evaluated for plagiarism. Any assignment that appears to have been plagiarized will receive a grade of 0; a second instance of plagiarism will result in failure of the course and referral to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Fortunately, it's not that hard to avoid plagiarism. Just enclose any words that you did not compose inside quotation marks and explain where you found any text (or images or whatever) that you include in your papers and other assignments. I will discuss all this in class, and you can buy a book such as [A Pocket Guide to Writing History](#), which is usually available at the UIC Bookstore, for further pointers. Questions? [Ask me!](#)

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC). You can contact the DRC at (312) 413-2183.

CLASS CALENDAR:

<u>Week 1</u>	Jan. 15	Introductions / The creation of a national identity
	Jan. 17	Uncertain Times: A New President and Central American Migrants <u>Reading:</u> Week 1 Packet available on Blackboard: “In Mexico López Obrador Takes Power,” “Migrant Caravan Explained,” and “Nueva Generación.” <u>Assignment:</u> Post a comment on the Blackboard discussion board by 10:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20
<u>Week 2</u>	Jan. 22	Lecture: Ancient Mexico <u>Reading:</u> <i>Course of Mexican History</i> , Chapters 1-4 & 6 Quiz
	Jan. 24	Discussion: Conquest <u>Assignment:</u> Post a comment on the Blackboard discussion board by 10:00 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27
	Jan. 25	Last day to withdraw without W grade
<u>Week 3</u>	Jan. 29	Lecture & Discussion: Colonialism <u>Reading:</u> <i>Course of Mexican History</i> , Chapters 8, 11, 13, 14
	Jan. 31	Discussion: The problem of Independence <u>Reading:</u> <i>Course of Mexican History</i> , Chapter 15 Quiz
<u>Week 4</u>	Feb. 5	Lecture: The first 50 years <u>Assignment:</u> Post a comment on the Blackboard discussion board by 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6
	Feb. 7	Lecture/Discussion: Regionalism and Caste War/Prep for Paper 1 <u>Reading:</u> Sullivan, 1-98
<u>Week 5</u>	Feb. 12	Lecture/Discussion: Foreign powers and neo-colonialism <u>Reading:</u> Sullivan, 99-192
	Feb. 14	Discussion: Cultural Change; Peer Review of Papers <u>Assignment:</u> Bring a hard copy of your paper to Class; the final version is due on Blackboard Friday, Feb. 15 at 5:00 p.m.

- Week 6 Feb. 19 Lecture: The Porfiriato
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, Chapters 23-25
- Feb. 21 Working on Newspapers
Reading: Week 6 Packet
Assignment: **Newspapers due on BB by noon, Monday, Jan 25**
- Week 7 Feb. 26 Liberalism or Tradition?
Reading: Newspapers
- Feb. 28 Lecture: The Revolution
Reading: *The Underdogs*, 3-48 (Part 2); *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 26-27
Assignment: Post a comment on the Blackboard discussion board by 10:00 p.m. Friday, March 1
- Week 8 March 5 Film Clips: *Last Zapatistas* & Discussion about Revolution
Reading: *The Underdogs*, 49-91 (Part 2); *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 28-29
- March 7 Discussion: Murals, Myth, and Memory; Peer review of Papers
Assignment: **Bring a hard copy of your paper to Class; the final version is due on Blackboard Friday, March 8 at 5:00 p.m.**
- Week 9 March 12 Lecture: Land Reform, Agrarismo, Cristiada;
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 30
- March 14 Working on Newspapers
Reading: Week 9 Packet
Assignment: **Newspapers due on BB by noon, Monday, March 18**
- Week 10 March 19 Revolution or Dictatorship?
Reading: Newspapers
- March 21 Lecture: Cardenismo
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 31 and 32
- Spring Break, March 25-29**
- Week 11 April 2 Film Clips & Discussion: La ley de Herodes
- April 4 Lecture: The Mexican Miracle
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 33-34
Quiz

- Week 12 April 9 Lecture and discussion Tlatelolco and the 1960s
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 35-36
- April 11 Lecture & Discussion: Neoliberalism
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, 37-38
Assignment: Post a comment on the Blackboard discussion board by 10:00 p.m. Friday, April 12
- Week 13 April 16 Lecture/Discussion: Understanding History: Documents, Memoire, Memory
Reading: *The Distande Between Us*, 1-159
- April 18 Lecture: Environmental History
Reading: Week 13 Packet
Quiz
- Week 14 April 23 Lecture: Transnational Mexico
Reading: *The Distance Between Us*, 163-322
- April 25 Lecture and Discussion: The Rise of the Narco-State; Peer Review
Assignment: **Bring a hard copy of your paper to Class; the final version is due on Blackboard Friday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m.**
- Week 15 April 30 Discussion: Mexico's promise and precarious situation
Reading: *Course of Mexican History*, Ch. 39-40
- May 2 Wrapping Up and Prep for the Final Exam

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE: Thursday, April 9 at 3:30 p.m. on Blackboard (subject to change by Registrar)