SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Course Title: History of Mexico
Course Number: HST 30
Class Meetings: M 7:00-10:00PM
Room: VIL 11-04
Session: Spring 2007
Ticket: 21455

Instructor Name: Memo Fernandez
Email Address: efernandez7@saddleback.edu
Voice Mail: 949-582-4900 Ext. 3176
WEB SITE: http://www.saddleback.edu/faculty/efernandez7/

History of Mexico

Course Description:
This course provides a general survey of Mexican Heritage from Pre-Columbian times to the present. The course of study includes the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the Mexican people while also covering many local and regional experiences. An interdisciplinary approach is used to develop an understanding of the human experience. Transferable to UC/CSU

Student Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to
- Provide a model for recognizing Mexico’s path to independence, centralism and federalism in the formation of the state in the nineteenth century.
- Define and outline a non-traditional perspective of the Mexican Revolution, relations with the United States, the post revolutionary state, rise and fall of the Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI), as well as contemporary social, political and economic issues.
- Challenge assumptions and validate information and research on the history of Mexico, including, distinguishing between fact and opinion, and upholding ideas with supportive evidence.
- Identify and evaluate Mexico’s achievements in art, religion, science, literature, architecture and government.
- Compare and contrast relations with other world states.
**Course Format and Procedures:**
Informal and interactive lectures, readings, films and discussions, etc. will provide students with an overview of the indigenous, as well as the European influences that shaped the Mexican culture and history. Students are expected to be in class on time, prepared, and ready to participate in class discussions.

**Required Text: (available in the bookstore)**
J.T. Pablos, A. Hynas, *Women in Mexico, A Past Unveiled*

**Grading Scale:**
- 3 Essay Examinations …… 60%
- Book Review ……………… 10%
- Attendance/Participation …… 10%
- Final Exam ………………… 20%

100%

**Schedule:**

**Week One**  
Monday, January 8  
Introduction  
The First Mexicans; Mexico’s Golden Age: The Classic Period

**Week Two**  
Monday, January 15  
*MLK-Holiday*  
Times of Trouble: Post-Classic Mexico; The Rise of the Aztecs

**Week Three**  
Monday, January 22  
Aztec Society and Culture; The Spanish Invasion

**Week Four**  
Monday, January 29  
The Fall of Techotitlán; The Settlement of New Spain

**Week Five**  
Monday, February 5  
**Exam One**  
The Imperial System Entrenched; The Colonial Economy
Week Six
Monday, February 12
The Colonial Church; Colonial Society: Race and Social Status

Week Seven
Monday, February 19
*Lincoln Holiday
Culture and Daily Life in New Spain; The Bourbons Restructure New Spain

Week Eight
Monday, February 26
Society and Stress in the Late Colonial Period; The War for Independence
The First Mexican Empire

Week Nine
Monday, March 5
The Early Mexican Republic, 1824-1833; Santa Anna and the Centralized State

Week Ten
Monday, March 12
*Spring Break
The Loss of Texas and the War with the United States; Society and Culture in the
First Half of the Nineteenth Century

Week Eleven
Monday, March 19
**Exam Two
From Ayutla to the Reform; The French Intervention; The Restored Republic,
1867-76: Nascent Modernization

Week Twelve
Monday, March 26
Society and Culture in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century; The Making of the
Porfiriato; The Process of Modernization; The Costs of Modernization; Society
and Culture during the Porfiriato

Week Thirteen
Monday April 2
The Liberal Indictment; The Overthrow of Diaz; Madero and the Failure of
Democracy; Huerta and the Failure of Dictatorship; The Illusory Quest for a
Better Way; Society and Culture during the Age of Violence
Week Fourteen
Monday, April 9
**Exam Three
Alvaro Obregón Cautiously Implements the Constitution; Mexico under Plutarco Calles, 1924-34; Cárdenas Carries the Revolution to the Left

Week Fifteen
Monday, April 16
Society and Culture from Obregón to Cardenás; From Revolution to Evolution, 1940-46; The Institutionalized Revolution, 1946-58

Week Sixteen
Monday, April 23
Adolfo López Mateos: The Lull before the Storm, 1958-64; Sparks, Fire, and Smoldering, 1964-76

Week Seventeen
Monday, April 30
The Tensions of Development and Democratization, 1976-88; Mexico since 1988: The Post-Revolutionary Era; Society and Culture since World War II

Week Eighteen
Monday, May 7
** Book Review Due

Week Nineteen
Monday, May 14
**Final Exam

Course Content
(Topics/Chapters Covered)

I. Analysis of Ancient Mexico
   A. The Development of European Mexico
   B. The Mayas and Toltecs
   C. The Aztecs
II. Analysis of Spanish Conquest
   A. The Coming of the Spaniards
   B. The Conquest of the Aztecs
   C. The Conquest of Southern Mexico
   D. The Conquest of Northern Mexico
III. Analysis of New Spain
   A. Political Organization
   B. Economic Development
C. The Church  
D. Mexican Society  
E. Spain and her Enemies  

IV. Analysis of the War of Independence  
A. Growth of Liberalism  
B. Hidalgo  
C. Morelos  
D. Man of Iguala  

V. Analysis of the Era of Santa Ana  
A. Iturbide’s Empire  
B. Federalists  
C. Secession of Texas  
D. Centralists  
E. War with U.S.A.  
F. Revolution of Ayutla  

VI. Analysis of the Reform  
A. From Ayutla to the Reform  
B. Three-year War  
C. French Intervention  
D. Maximilian  

VII. Analysis of the Diaz Era  
A. Juarez and Lerdo  
B. Construction of the Dictatorship  
C. Dictatorship at its Zenith  
D. Fall of Dictatorship  

VIII. Analysis of the Revolution  
A. Madero  
B. Overthrow of Huerta  
C. Carranza  
D. Rule of Carranza  

IX. Analysis Of the Reconstruction Period  
A. Obregon  
B. Calles  
C. Cardenas  
D. Conclusion  

X. Analysis of Modern Mexico  
A. From Avila Camacho to the Present  
B. Modern Change and Growth