

# THE POLITICS OF MEXICO

Political Science 454

Spring 2013

Online Course

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Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11:30 AM-Noon; Mondays 1:00-2:30 PM; by appointment

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## **Course Description**

This course will introduce students to modern Mexican politics. We will explore the historical, economic, and social factors that have influenced the politics of Mexico, beginning with the revolution and continuing to the present. We will analyze the “perfect dictatorship” that emerged after the revolution and the slow, drawn-out transition to democracy. We will assess the strength of Mexico’s political institutions, the “fit” of its party system, and its ability to maintain and deepen democracy.

## **Course Policies**

I expect that everyone read this syllabus carefully. You are responsible for knowing all of the information contained in this syllabus. Please do not contact the instructor or the teaching assistant for this course with questions that are answered in this syllabus. However, please do contact the instructor or the teaching assistant if you would like more information or clarification on any information that is contained in this syllabus.

I expect that everyone in class be treated with respect. You will have many opportunities to participate in class discussions with your fellow students. You should make an effort to address other students by name and to be civil in all your interactions with other students. I will post information on “netiquette.”

Students with special needs should identify themselves to the instructor during the first 10 days of the semester. Students with disabilities that require academic accommodations should present a letter from the Disability Resource Center to the instructor in order for special accommodations to be made. Those students who have course conflicts due to religious observance should talk to the instructor within the first 10 days of the semester. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor in a timely manner of any situation that is interfering with their academic performance.

Students who violate the tenets of academic honesty will face disciplinary action and will automatically receive a failing grade in this course. Students are expected to abide by the Student Academic Integrity Policy. Arizona State University has asked that the following statement appear in this syllabus:

In the “Student Academic Integrity Policy” manual, ASU defines “Plagiarism” [as] using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately.” Academic dishonesty, including inappropriate collaboration, will not be tolerated. There are severe sanctions for cheating, plagiarizing and any other form of dishonesty. You can find this definition at:

[http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic\\_integrity.htm#definitions](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic_integrity.htm#definitions).

This class is an online class offered through Blackboard. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with Blackboard and for obtaining technical help from ASU Help Center if necessary. You can visit [http://help.asu.edu/sims/selfhelp/SelfHelpHome.seam?dept\\_pk=822](http://help.asu.edu/sims/selfhelp/SelfHelpHome.seam?dept_pk=822) to learn more about Blackboard and to check system requirements. If you are not comfortable using Blackboard, you need to obtain help from the ASU Help Center immediately. You will not be granted extensions because of an inability to use Blackboard or any other technology necessary for this course.

Please note that while this is an online course; it is NOT a self-paced course. Look at this syllabus carefully. If you will be unable to keep up with the course or make time for quizzes and exams, then this course is not for you.

### **Course Requirements**

Course grades will be based on four quizzes (7.5% each, 30% total), two exams (20% each, 40% total), an annotated bibliography (12.5%), participation in class discussions (10%), and individual activities (7.5%). A final course grade of 90% or higher earns an A, 80%-89% equals a B, etc.

The first assignment of the semester is a syllabus quiz. The quiz does not count towards your final course grade. You can take this quiz as many times as necessary, but you will not be able to access other quizzes/exams until you receive a perfect score on the quiz. For example, if you do not receive a 100 on the syllabus quiz until February 5, you will be barred from taking Quiz 1 and will receive a 0 for your quiz grade. No exceptions will be made. In order to avoid falling behind in the course, I strongly suggest that you take the syllabus quiz by January 12. You will also take four short multiple choice/fill in the blank quizzes on material covered in the readings. These quizzes will be worth 7.5% of your grade each.

You will also take two exams which will test your understanding of the material covered in both lectures and in the readings. The exams will be a combination of short essays (each essay will likely be one page long) and multiple choice and fill in the blank questions. All quizzes and exams will be timed. Please familiarize yourself with ASU's policies regarding academic dishonesty. You may use your books and notes during quizzes and exams, but you must complete these quizzes and exams on your own. You will NOT have enough time to complete the quizzes and exams if you must look up multiple answers in your books/notes. If you experience technical difficulties during a quiz or an exam, you must notify the TA immediately and then contact the ASU Help Center to see if they can help resolve the problem. Failure to contact the TA will result in points being deducted from your grade. More information about quizzes and exams will be made available on Blackboard.

You will also be required to produce an annotated bibliography. This annotated bibliography must use only academic sources. Your annotated bibliography should be coherent, i.e. the sources that you choose must be on the same (or a related ) topic. Your annotated bibliography should not be a random collection of synopses of academic articles. For example, your annotated bibliography could provide annotations of sources on Mexico's democratization, on the Zapatistas, or on the 2000 Mexican elections, but not on all three of these. Your annotated bibliography must use a minimum of 8-10 academic sources. You are expected to read these sources carefully and then provide a 2-3 sentence description of that book or article. More information about this assignment is available on Blackboard. Late assignments will be docked 10 points per 24 hour period.

Your participation in class discussions and activities is important to your success in the course. There will be many opportunities for you to contribute to online discussions, but you can also participate by posting documents or links that are relevant to our study of Mexican politics. You will also be asked to work on a number of activities. Instructions will be posted for each activity the week that those activities are due. For example, an activity and instructions might be posted on at 9 AM on February 4. You would have until 9 AM on February 11 to complete the activity. Late activities will not be accepted.

New course materials, including new lecture notes and assignments, will be posted on Mondays by 9 AM. All quizzes and exams—with the exception of the syllabus quiz—will be posted on Wednesdays by 9 AM and will need to be completed by Friday at 9 AM; these quizzes and exams will be timed and once you begin work on these, you will need to complete them in the allotted time or lose points. You can see the scheduled dates for all quizzes and exams in the weekly outline provided below.

Again, this course is not self-paced. You are required to keep up with reading assignments, take quizzes and exams when they are scheduled, and meet all deadlines. I strongly urge you to designate a time each week when you will review the week's materials. Since activities are ALWAYS assigned on Monday mornings and are ALWAYS due the following Monday morning, I suggest that you review the material early in the week so that you have plenty of time to devote to any assigned activities. I urge you to add all quiz and exam dates to your calendar. Make-up quizzes and exams will only be given to individuals with emergency situations who have documented excuses.

A course reading packet is available for you to purchase from Alternative Copy Shop. Instructions on ordering those packets are available as a Blackboard announcement. Those reading assignments listed on this syllabus with a (P) are found in the reading packet. Assignments with a (B) are found in one of the two required books. Reading assignments that are available (free of charge) online are marked with an (O). There are two required texts for this course. These texts have been placed on reserve at Hayden Library and are available for you to purchase at the university bookstore:

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. New York: Back Bay Books.

### **WEEK 1: JANUARY 7 Syllabus Quiz**

#### **Introduction**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 1-24. (B)

### **WEEK 2: JANUARY 14**

#### **The Mexican Revolution: Causes and Consequences**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 25-55. (B)

### **WEEK 3: JANUARY 21**

#### **The Perfect Dictatorship**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 107-175. (B)

### **WEEK 4: JANUARY 28 Quiz #1 (Due February 1, 9:00 AM)**

#### **The Perfect Dictatorship**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 107-175. (B)

### **WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 4**

#### **Moving Towards Democracy**

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. Back Bay Books. Read pages 111-214. (B)

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 192-243. (B)

### **WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 11**

#### **The Parties Formerly Known as the Parties of the Opposition: PAN & PRD**

Mizrabi, Yemile. 2003. *From Martyrdom to Power: The Partido Acción Nacional in Mexico*. Notre Dame: The University of Notre Dame Press. Read pages 13-30. (P)

Eisenstadt, Todd A. 2004. *Courting Democracy in Mexico: Party Strategies and Electoral Institutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read pages 198-233. (P)

### **WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 18 Exam #1 (Due February 22, 9:00 AM)**

#### **Civil Society and the Incorporation of Women into Politics**

Poniatowska, Elena. 1995. *Nothing, Nobody: The Voices of the Mexico City Earthquake*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Read pages 83-87, 142-155. (P)

Baldez, Lisa. 2007. "Primaries vs. Quotas: Gender and Candidate Nominations in Mexico, 2003." *Latin American Politics and Society* 49(3): 69-96. (O)

### **WEEK 8: FEBRUARY 25**

#### **The Politics of Economic Crisis**

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. Back Bay Books. Read pages 90-110, 215-234. (B)

Teichman, Judith. 1997. "Neoliberalism and the Transformation of Mexican Authoritarianism." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 13(1): 121-147. (O)

### **WEEK 9: MARCH 4 Quiz #2 (Due March 8, 9:00 AM)**

#### **Indigenous Politics and the Zapatistas**

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. Back Bay Books. Read pages 3-82, 235-262. (B)

EZLN, Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle (Translated into English).  
<http://www.ezln.org/documentos/1994/199312xx.en.htm>.(O)

### **WEEK 10: SPRING BREAK**

### **WEEK 11: MARCH 18**

#### **Political Culture**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 56-106. (B)

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. Back Bay Books. Read pages 263-297. (B)

### **WEEK 12: MARCH 25 Quiz #3 (Due March 29, 9:00 AM)**

#### **So Close to the United States: The US-Mexico Relationship**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 244-272. (B)

Fitzgerald, David. 2004. "For 118 Million Mexicans": Emigrants and Chicanos in Mexican Politics. In *Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico*, edited by K.J. Middlebrook. London: Institute of Latin American Studies. (P)

### **WEEK 13: APRIL 1**

#### **Assessing Mexico's Institutions: The Media, Campaigns, and Elections**

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. Back Bay Books. Read pages 83-90. (B)

Eisenstadt, Todd A. 2001. "On Observing Elections and Magistrates' Faces." *ReVista* Fall Issue. [http://drclas.fas.harvard.edu/revista/?issue\\_id=9&article\\_id=72](http://drclas.fas.harvard.edu/revista/?issue_id=9&article_id=72). (O)

Klesner, Joseph L. 2005. "Electoral Competition and the New Party System in Mexico." *Latin American Politics and Society* 47(2): 103-142. (O).

### **WEEK 14: APRIL 8 Quiz #4 (Due April 12, 9:00 AM); Annotated Bibliography Due (Due April 8, 9:00 AM)**

#### **Assessing Mexico's Political Institutions: Executives, Legislatures, and Judiciaries**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 176-192. (B)

Weldon, Jeffrey A. 2004. Changing Patterns of Executive-Legislative Relations. In *Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico*, edited by K.J. Middlebrook. London: Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London. (P)

Zabludovsky, Karla. 2012. "In Mexico, Rehearsing to Inject Drama into the Courtroom." *The New York Times*. August 27, 2012. (O)

### **WEEK 15: APRIL 15**

#### **The Future of Mexico**

Dresser, Denise. 2005. "Fox's Mexico: Democracy Paralyzed." *Current History* 104(679): 64-68. (O)

Krauze, Enrique. 2006. "Furthering Democracy in Mexico." *Foreign Affairs* 85(1): 54-65. (O)

Oppenheimer, Andres. 1998. *Bordering on Chaos: Mexico's Roller-Coaster Journey Toward Prosperity*. Back Bay Books. Read pages 298-337. (B)

Lawson, Chappell. 2000. "Mexico's Unfinished Transition: Democratization and Authoritarian Enclaves in Mexico." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 16(2): 267-287. (O)

### **WEEK 16: APRIL 22**

#### **The Future of Mexico**

Camp, Roderic Ai. 2007. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read pages 273-301. (B)

Camín, Héctor Aguilar and Jorge G. Castañeda. 2012. "Mexico's Age of Agreement." *Foreign Affairs* 91(2): 23-30. (O)

### **WEEK 17: APRIL 29 Exam #2 (Due May 3, 9:00 AM)**

#### **The Future of Mexico**