

HTST 410.2 Mexico City: Past and Present

University of Calgary

Department of History

2019

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course is an intensive examination of the past and present of one of the most fascinating cities in the world, Mexico City. Paying particular attention to space and place, we will examine the historical processes (political, intellectual, ecological, social, and cultural) that are manifest in the urban development of the megacity. By focusing primarily on three parts of the city – Xochimilco, Chapultepec, and Tlatelolco – we will examine through the lens of each location environmental, cultural, political history in the pre-Hispanic, colonial, and modern periods. By taking this class in Mexico City, students will be able to visit each of these locations, as well as several other significant museums and archaeological sites. Successful students will develop critical analysis, writing, research, and oral presentation skills, and will engage in experiential learning.

Required Reading/Viewing:

Vitz, Matthew. *A City on a Lake: Urban Political Ecology and the Growth of Mexico City*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2018.

Poniatowska, Elena. *Massacre in Mexico*. Translated by Helen R. Lane. University of Missouri Press, 1991.

María Candelaria. Directed by Emilio Fernández, 1943.

Juárez. Directed by William Dieterle, 1939.

Rojo Amanecer. Directed by Jorge Fons, 1990.

Required texts are available for purchase at the bookstore, and have been placed on reserve at the library. Additional readings will be posted on d2l. **Students are strongly encouraged (but not required) to do the readings in advance of our departure so that they can immerse themselves fully in the culture of Mexico City during the week of travel.**

Suggested Reading:

“The History Student’s Handbook: A Short Guide to Writing History Essays” (available at <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook1.pdf>).

Course Outline

Wednesday, February 27, 4:30-5:30, MSC 275: Medical Travel Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 4:00-6:00, SS 117: Pre-Travel Academic Session Meeting

* During this class, we will view some clips of the assigned films and the instructor will review the syllabus and expectations regarding the readings and the final project.

Wednesday, March 20, 4:00-6:00, SS 117: Pre-Departure Meeting

* During this class, hosted by the Group Study Team, we will cover logistics for upcoming travel and answer any questions that have arisen.

Chapultepec

Juárez. Directed by William Dieterle, 1939.

Wakild, Emily. "Naturalizing Modernity: Urban Parks, Public Gardens, and Drainage Projects in Porfirian Mexico City." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 23:1 (Winter 2007): 101-123.

Moerer, Andrea K. "Changing Chapultepec." Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Minnesota, 2013. Chapter 3, "House of the People: The Importance of Chapultepec as Seen Through the History of Early Museums." 81-120.

Del Valle, Ivonne. "On Shaky Ground: Hydraulics, State Formation, and Colonialism in Sixteenth-Century Mexico." *Hispanic Review* 77: 2 (Spring 2009): 197-220.

Xochimilco

María Candelaria. Directed by Emilio Fernández, 1943.

Vitz, Matthew. *A City on a Lake: Urban Political Ecology and the Growth of Mexico City*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2018.

Conway, Richard. "Rural Indians and Technological Innovation, From the Chinampas of Xochimilco and Beyond." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*.

Banister, Jeffrey M. and Stacie G. Widdifield. "This History and Visual Culture of Mexico City's Xochimilco Potable Water System during the Porfiriato." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*.

Aguilar, Adrian Guillermo and Flor M. López. "Water Insecurity among the Urban Poor in the Peri-urban Zone of Xochimilco, Mexico City." *Journal of Latin American Geography* 8: 2 (2009): 97-123.

Tlatelolco

Rojo Amanecer. Directed by Jorge Fons, 1990.

Poniatowska, Elena. *Massacre in Mexico*. Translated by Helen R. Lane. University of Missouri Press, 1991.

Estarellas, Juan. "The College of Tlatelolco and the Problem of Higher Education for Indians in 16th Century Mexico." *History of Education Quarterly* 2: 4 (Dec., 1962): 234-243.

Walker, Louise E. Chapter 6: "Earthquake: Civil Society in the Rubble of Tlatelolco, 1985-1988." *Waking from the Dream: Mexico's Middle Classes after 1968*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013.

Assignments:

I. Streetwise History

Tannenbaum, Barbara. "Streetwise History: The Paseo de la Reforma" In *Rituals of Rule*, edited by William H. Beezley, William E. French and Cheryl E. Martin. Wilmington, DE: SR Books, 1994.

Students will complete a short (5 page) written assignment on a Mexico City monument of their choosing (e.g. Monument to the Revolution, Independence Monument, among others). In this reflective assignment, students will be encouraged to include personal photographs and ephemera from their time in Mexico City. Due May 13, 2019

II. Mexico City Through Film

After viewing the three assigned films for the class, write a short (4 page) reflective paper on Mexico City through film. Due May 20, 2019.

III. Historical Roots of Contemporary Problems

Students will investigate the historical roots of a contemporary issue in Mexico City. Following our method of readings clusters on Xochimilco, Tlatelolco, and Chapultepec, students will investigate one contemporary issue (e.g. water insecurity, earthquake damage, food security, hygiene, among others) and research its historical roots. Research essays should be 12 pages (3000 words) in length. Be sure to consult *The History Student's Handbook* for help with footnotes. The essay will be assessed on the basis of both the clarity of argument and writing effectiveness (grammar, style, etc.). Bibliographies must include at least 10 scholarly sources. Due May 27, 2019.

Course Grading:

Participation	10%
Streetwise History (due May 13, 2019)	25%
Mexico City Through Film (due May 20, 2019)	25%
Research Essay (due May 27, 2019)	40%

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name and 4) your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90–100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85–89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80–84	A–	3.70	
77–79	B+	3.30	

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
73–76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70–72	B–	2.70	
67–69	C+	2.30	
63–66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60–62	C–	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56–59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50–55	D	1.00	
0–49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly
Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.
- Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>.
- Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Registration Changes and Exemption
Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

Spring/Summer 2019