

LAST 401: Integrative Seminar in Latin American Studies - Contemporary Mexico

University of Calgary

Fall 2013

Professor A. Kiddle

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Office Hours: Monday and Friday 10:00-

11:00, and by appointment

Course Description and Goals:

This integrative seminar in Latin American Studies is a multi-disciplinary investigation of contemporary Mexico. Through in-class discussion of readings, documentaries, and the coverage of Mexico in the English-language media, students will study significant political, economic, social, and cultural issues, focusing on the period from 2000 to the present.

As the capstone seminar in Latin American Studies, the objectives of the class are two-fold. First, LAST 401 includes significant reading and writing requirements, and students will demonstrate their analytical, research, and writing skills through the completion of substantial coursework. Second, LAST 401 draws on several different disciplinary perspectives in our weekly analysis of selected topics, and students will demonstrate an understanding of what different disciplinary perspectives bring to our understanding of Latin America in general, and Mexico in particular.

Required Texts:

Camp, Roderic Ai. *Politics in Mexico*. 6th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Castellanos, M. Bianet. *A Return to Servitude: Maya Migration and the Tourist Trade in Cancun*. St. Paul: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

Regan, Margaret. *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*. New York: Beacon Press, 2010.

Sabet, Daniel. *Police Reform in Mexico*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012.

Additional readings will be posted on d2l and occasionally sent out via e-mail. Required texts are available for purchase at the bookstore, and have been placed on reserve at the library.

Course Grading:

Book Reviews (Due October 16 and November 20)	20%
Annotated Bibliography (Due October 30)	10%
Research Essay (Due November 29)	40%
Mexico in the Media Presentation	5%
Wikipedia Contribution	5%
Participation	20%

Students must complete all assignments to pass this course. There is no final exam for this class.

Course Requirements:

Your final mark for this course is based upon two book reviews, two oral presentations, an annotated bibliography, a research essay, and your participation in class discussions.

Book Reviews: Students will complete reviews of the monographs by Castellanos and Sabet. These essays should be between 2 and 3 pages (600 to 800 words) in length. Guidelines for each essay will be posted on d2l. The essays are due at the start of the class in which the book will be discussed, and because they constitute preparation for the discussion, late work will not be accepted.

Research Essay: Research essays will be on a topic of the student's choosing relating to contemporary Mexico. Students must discuss topics with the instructor. Guidelines for the bibliography, Wikipedia project, and the final essay will be posted on d2l.

Annotated Bibliography: Bibliographies must be properly formatted and should include at least 10 sources. Both books and journal articles should be among those sources. Journal articles that are accessed via the internet, using databases such as JSTOR, Historical Abstracts, and Project Muse that are available on the library's website, are encouraged.

Wikipedia Contribution: Students will consult a Wikipedia entry related to their research essays. After completing their final papers, students will edit the entry to include relevant information found during course of their research. Students will submit a before and after version to the instructor and present the substance of their changes to the class during the last seminar meeting.

Essay: Research essays should be 10-12 pages (3000 words) in length. The essay will be assessed on the basis of both the clarity of argument and writing effectiveness (grammar, style, etc.). Students are STRONGLY encouraged to make use of the Student Success Centre.

Mexico in the Media Presentation: Each student will give a short oral presentation on one or more items (newspaper or magazine articles, blog posts, newscasts, podcasts) on Mexico appearing in the previous week's English-language media. Students will sign up for the date of their presentation on the first day of class. Students should e-mail the news item to the instructor for posting on d2l 48 hours before our class meeting. In the presentation, students will provide context and background for the item and lead a class discussion the substance of the article and how Mexico is portrayed.

Class Participation: Regular attendance is essential. Participation involves actively listening to your colleagues' contributions and the quality of your contributions to our discussions. Bring copies of the week's readings with you to class and prepare discussion questions. All students will complete a map quiz, which will count towards their participation grades. Occasional extra credit opportunities will also count towards participation grades.

Evaluation:

A+	4.00	90.0% - 100%	Outstanding.
A	4.00	85.0% - 89%	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	80.0% - 84.0%	
B+	3.30	77.0% - 79.0%	
B	3.00	73.0% - 76.0%	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	70.0% - 72.0%	
C+	2.30	67.0% - 69.0%	
C	2.00	63.0% - 66.0%	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter
C-	1.70	60.0% - 62.0%	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation
D+	1.30	57.0% - 59.0%	
D	1.00	53.0% - 56.0%	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D-	0.70	50.0% - 52.0%	
F	0.0	49.0% - 00.0%	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Course Policies:

Please feel free to call or come to see me during my office hours. If you cannot come during the posted times, I would be happy to make an appointment for a mutually convenient meeting time.

Please feel free to e-mail me, but be aware that it may take up to 48 hours for me to respond.

Hard copies of all assignments must be submitted to the instructor. Unless special permission is received, work may not be submitted electronically. Hard copies of late work can be submitted to the red box outside the History Department's main office (SS 656), where students' work is collected and date stamped at 4:30 each day.

Late assignments that are not accompanied by a legitimate excuse such as a doctor's note will be penalised **one third of a letter grade per day** (e.g. From B + to B).

Students who anticipate difficulty meeting a deadline (for academic or personal reasons) should request an extension at least 48 hours **before** an assignment's due date.

Students will treat the instructor and fellow students with respect. Refrain from disruptive behaviour. Use laptops and tablets for course-related purposes only. Turn your cell phones off.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Course Outline

1. September 11

Introduction

FILM: *Espelendores! Splendors of Mexico* (Films on Demand)

2. September 18

The Revolution and the PRI
 Mexico in the Media
 Readings:
 Camp, Chapters 1-5

Benjamin, Thomas. "Rebuilding the Nation." In *The Oxford History of Mexico*, 2nd edition, edited by William H. Beezley, 438-470. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Zolov, Eric. "Showcasing the Land of Tomorrow: Mexico and the 1968 Olympics." *The Americas* 61:2 (October 2004): 159-188.

Walker, Louise E. "Economic Fault Lines and Middle-Class Fears: Tlatelolco, Mexico City 1985." In *Aftershocks: Earthquakes and Popular Politics in Latin America*, edited by Jürgen Buchenau and Lyman L. Johnson, 184-221. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009.

FILM: *El ley de Herodes*

3. September 25

Democratisation and the Return of the PRI

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Camp, Chapters 6-10

Guillermoprieto, Alma. "Elections 2000." In *Looking for History: Dispatches from Latin America*, 286-303. New York: Vintage, 2001

Ortiz-Ortega, Adriana and Mercedes Barquet. "Gendering Transition to Democracy in Mexico." *Latin American Research Review* 45, Special Issue (): 108-137.

Brickner, Rachel K. "Feminist Activism, Union Democracy and Gender Equity Rights in Mexico." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 42:4 (November 2010) 749-777.

FILM: *Yo soy 132* (youtube clips) and *Democracia Indígena* (Films on Demand)

4. October 2

Indigeneity

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Stavenhagen, Rodolfo. "Struggle and Resistance: the Nation's Indians in Transition." In *Mexico's Democratic Challenges: Politics, Government, and Society*. Edited by Andrew Selee and Jacqueline Peschard, 251-267. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center: 2010.

Coffey, Mary K. "Banking on Folk Art: Banamex-Citigroup and Transnational Cultural Citizenship." *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 29: 3 (2010) 296-312.

Lewis, Stephen. "A Window into the Recent Past in Chiapas: Federal Education and *Indigenismo* in the Highlands, 1921-1940." *The Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 6:1 (2001): 58-83.

Poole, Deborah. "Affective Distinctions: Race and Place in Oaxaca." In *Contested Histories in Public Space: Memory, Race, and Nation*, edited by Daniel J. Walkowitz and Lisa Maya Knauer, 197-225. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.

FILMS: *Voice Through Film* and *The Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian* (Films on Demand)

5. October 9

Oil and the Economy

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Wood, Duncan. "The Administration of Decline: Mexico's Looming Oil Crisis." *Law and Business Review of the Americas* 16:4 (Fall 2010): 855-870.

Santiago, Myrna. "Culture Clash: Foreign Oil and Indigenous People in Northern Veracruz, Mexico." *Journal of American History* 99:12 (2012): 62-71.

Shields, David. "Mexican Pipeline." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 34: 4 (January/February 2001): 31-37.

El Físgón. "Here Comes Oil Privatization!" *NACLA Report on the Americas* (September/October 2008): 33-36.

FILM: *Oil in Mexico and the Future of PEMEX* (youtube clip)

6. October 16

The Tourist Industry

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Castellanos, M. Bianet. *A Return to Servitude: Maya Migration and the Tourist Trade in Cancun*. St. Paul: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

Saragoza, Alex M. "Golfing in the Desert: Los Cabos and Post-PRI Tourism in Mexico." In *Holiday in Mexico*, edited by Dina Berger and Andrew Grant Wood, 295-319. Durham: Duke University Press, 2010.

FILM: *Travel Secrets Mexico – Riviera Nayarit* (youtube)

Book Review Due at the Beginning of Class!

7. October 23

Agriculture

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Chollett, Donna L. "From Sugar to Blackberries: Restructuring Agro-export Production in Michoacán, México." *Latin American Perspectives* 36: 3 (May 2009): 79-92.

Browning, Anjali. "Corn, Tomatoes, and a Dead Dog: Mexican Agricultural Restructuring after NAFTA and Rural Responses to Declining Maize Production in Oaxaca, Mexico." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 29:1 (Winter 2013): 85-119.

FILM: *Nuestro Maíz*

8. October 30

Drugs

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

- Campos, Isaac. "Degeneration and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 26:2 (Summer 2010): 379-408.
- Shapiro, Justin B. "What Are They Smoking?! Mexico's Decriminalization of Small-Scale Drug Possession in the Wake of a Law Enforcement Failure." *The University of Miami Inter-American Law Review* 42: 1 (Fall 2010) 115-144.
- Morris, Stephen D. "Drugs, Violence, and Life in Mexico." *Latin American Research Review* 47: 2 (2012): 216-223.
- Campbell, Howard. "No End in Sight: Violence in Ciudad Juárez." *NACLA Report on the Americas* (May/June 2011): 19-22.
- FILM: *Mexico's Drug Wars* (Films on Demand)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!

9. November 6

Migration I

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Regan, Margaret. *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*. New York: Beacon Press, 2010.

Massey, Douglas S., Jacob S. Rugh and Karen A. Pren. "The Geography of Undocumented Mexican Migration." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 26:1 (Winter 2010): 129-152.

Félix, Adrián. "Posthumous Transnationalism: Postmortem Repatriation from the United States to Mexico." *Latin American Research Review* 46: 3 (2011): 157-179.

Brigden, Noelle K. "'Like a War': The New Central American Refugee Crisis." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 45:4 (Winter 2012): 7-11.

FILM: *Coyote, An Immigration Case Study* (Films on Demand)

10. November 13

Migration II

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Topmiller, Michael, Frederick J. Conway and James Gerber. "U.S. Migration to Mexico: Numbers, Issues, and Scenarios." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 27:1 (Winter 2011): 45-71.

Martin, Patricia M. and Annie Lapalme. "Mexican Asylum Seekers to Canada: The Door Closes." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 46:1 (Spring 2013): 74-78.

FILM: *El Contrato*

11. November 20

Militarization

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

- Sabet, Daniel. *Police Reform in Mexico*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012.
- Díez, Jordi. "Legislative Oversight of the Armed Forces in Mexico." *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 24:1 (Winter 2008): 113-145.
- Müller, Markus-Michael. "Community Policing in Latin America: Lessons from Mexico City." *Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe/European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 88 (April 2010): 21-37.
- Falcón, Sylvanna M. "Rape as a Weapon of War: Militarized Rape at the U.S.-Mexico Border." In *Women and Migration in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands: A Reader*. Edited by Denise A. Segura and Patricia Zavella, 203-223. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.
- FILM: *City of Dead Women* (Films on Demand)

Book Review Due at the Beginning of Class!

12. November 27

Journalism

Mexico in the Media

Readings:

Hughes, Sallie. "The Media in Mexico: From Authoritarian Institution to Hybrid System" in *The Media in Latin America*, edited by Jairo Lugo-Ocando, 131-149. Buckingham: Open University Press, 2008.

Márquez Ramírez, Mireya. "Journalism Culture and Political Conflict: Mexican Journalists Reflect Their Performance during 2006 Presidential Elections." *Derecom* No. 1 (March-May 2010): 1-23.

FILM: *Reportero*

RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE AT 10 AM ON NOVEMBER 29

13. December 4

Conclusion

Mexico in the Media

Wikipedia Projects