

# Global Learning Semesters

## Course Syllabus

Course: Social and Cultural History of Mexico

Department: History

Host Institution: Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, México



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
n/a	Social and Cultural History of Mexico	3
Subject	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
History	42	None
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
History	Upper-Division	English

### Course Description & Objectives

The course's main objective is to contribute to students' awareness of social, cultural and racial interactions in Mexico, mainly through the study of assigned readings, field observations, in-class discussions, and traditional songs. We will be analyzing the different stages of Mexican history and their impact on present society, allowing us to gain a better understanding of present day Mexico.

### Prerequisites (if applicable)

None

### Instructor Information

Professor María Esther de la Cuesta

### Tasks and Assignments

#### Chapter I – Pre-Hispanic History

1. Origin of Man in America
2. First Settlers of Mexico
  - a. Olmecs
  - b. Teotihuacans
  - c. Mixtecs
  - d. Zapotecs
  - e. Tarascans
  - f. Mayans
  - g. Toltecs
  - h. Aztecs

#### Chapter II – The Discovery of America

1. The Expeditions
2. Christopher Columbus
3. Spanish and Portuguese Expeditions
4. Other Discoveries
5. Consequences of the Discovery

### **Chapter III – The Spanish Conquest**

1. First Expeditions to Mexico
2. Conquest and Fall of Tenochtitlan
3. Missionaries
4. The New Spain

### **Chapter IV – The Colonial Period**

1. Territory
2. The New Culture
3. Education

### **Chapter V – Independence from Spain**

1. Conspiracy in Queretaro
2. Miguel Hidalgo
3. Josefa Ortiz
4. Jose Ma. Morelos
5. The End of the War
6. Agustin de Iturbide

### **Chapter VI – The 19th Century**

1. The Federal Republic
2. Central Republic
3. War with USA
4. The Reform War
5. The Liberal Republic is Established

### **Chapter VII – Porfirio Diaz**

1. His Government
2. Manuel Gonzalez
3. Political and Economic Development

### **Chapter VIII – The Mexican Revolution**

1. The First Problems
2. Francisco I Madero
3. Victoriano Huerta
4. Francisco Villa
5. Emiliano Zapata
6. Venustiano Carranza
7. Alvaro Obregon

### **Chapter IX – Modern Mexico**

1. National Unity
2. Plutarco Elias Calles
3. Presidents
4. Economic Opening

Students will also partake in a day excursion to Tepatitlán and a 3-day trip to Mexico City with visits to the Teotihuacán Pyramids, the National Museum of Anthropology, and the Colonial Downtown, among others.

## **Evaluation and Grading**

Each student will put together a research project on a topic of interest related to Mexican culture and present it to the class.

Students must come prepared to class, having read the assigned materials and ready to participate in the discussions.

### **Assignments**

1. 2-page paper on one of the field trips related to the class (10%)
2. Research project on a cultural issue in Mexico (15%)
3. 3 quizzes (25% each)

An 85% attendance rate is required.

Suggested Topics for Research Projects:

- Christmas Celebrations and Posadas
- Día de Muertos
- Murals – Rivera, Siqueiros and/or Orozco
- Mariachi Music
- Mexican Cuisine
- Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz
- Family Life in Mexico
- Mexican Values and Traditions

## Readings and Resources

Alvear Acevedo, Carlos. Historia de México  
Cuevas, Mariano. Historia de la Nación Mexicana  
Meyer and Sherman. The Course of Mexican History  
Schlarman. México, Tierra de Volcanes