



**EAST TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY

## **Hist 428: History of Modern Mexico Spring 2025**



### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** E. Mark Moreno (Dr. M)  
Associate Professor, Department of History

**Class Times:** MWF 1-2 p.m.

**Office Location:** Ferguson SS 118

**Office Hours:** MW 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday 2-3 p.m.

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5216

**University Email Address:** [mark.moreno@tamuc.edu](mailto:mark.moreno@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** Within 24 hours

## COURSE INFORMATION

### ***Textbooks Required***

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, *Bad Mexicans: Race, Empire, and Revolution at the Borderlands* (2022), ISBN 9781324004370

Paul Gillingham, *Unrevolutionary Mexico: The Birth of a Strange Dictatorship* (2021), ISBN 9780300253122

Carlos Fuentes, *The Good Conscience* (originally 1961), ISBN 97803745073367

Benjamin T. Smith, *The Dope* (2021), 9781324021827

***Course Description:*** *This course examines the development of the Mexican nation-state from the beginnings of independence through the twenty-first century. Themes may include war and conflict, authoritarianism and liberalism, U.S.-Mexico relations, race, gender, revolution, society, and popular culture. Prerequisites: Non-majors may enroll with consent of the department.*

### ***Student Learning Outcome***

1. Students will recognize important signifiers of modern Mexican history, including the rise of liberalism and authoritarianism, popular culture, resistance, repression, and the political origins and manifestation of drug cartels.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### ***Instructional Methods***

**Participation and attendance:** Regular attendance is expected, as well as regular questions and comments from students. Five points will be deducted for every three unexcused absences. Other lectures, discussions and film/video presentations will relate to class readings. Class time is meant for both lecture and discussion, so participation is important whether class involves interaction or film/video presentations.

**Use of cell phones during class is prohibited. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for violations of that policy.**

**Plagiarism:** Taking work directly from other sources and presenting it as your own is a serious academic offense, and will automatically result in a “0” grade for your assignment paper, and possibly for the class. In addition, students will need to meet with the instructor for explanation and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Modern (or postmodern) technology has made detection of plagiarism easier than ever before, and faculty members in most cases have adopted a “zero tolerance” policy for such actions. All work produced for this class must come directly from History 428 students, and specific to that class for the Spring 2023 semester.

# GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

## **Assessments**

Attendance, Participation = 50 points

Discussions = 120 points (Six oral discussions along with abstracts, up to 20 points each)

Book Analyses (2) = total of 50 points

Exams = 150 points total

Semester Project = 150 points total

Total = 520 points possible

**Exams:** Two online exams – a home-based midterm and a final in class – are assigned. Students will answer two out of three questions in standard essay form.

**Discussions:** Students will participate in six discussions based on the books *Bad Mexicans*, *Unrevolutionary Mexico*, *The Good Conscience* and *A Narco History* (with supplements), and a series of academic articles and other materials. Students earn points with discussion board abstracts along with in-class participation; they are expected to participate with questions and comments during lectures and discussion sessions.

## **Semester Project**

Students will produce a research paper of 10-12 pages, focusing primary documents based on the Tlatelolco Massacre of 1968 (when Mexico hosted the Summer Olympics), the Chinese massacre of 1911, or another of your choice after consultation with the instructor. All of them available online through the different archival sources. Guidelines and instructions for the paper will be discussed within the first month of class.

# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive

- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS\\_Tech\\_Reg\\_WebHelp/en-us/#LS\\_Technical\\_Requirements.htm#Browset](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
  - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
  - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2021, 2019, 2013, 2010 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

***This course like all History department courses utilizes the D2L online learning system***

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### ***Policy for Reporting Problems with D2L***

#### **myLeo Support**

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu) or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

#### **Learner Support**

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

#### ***Course Specific Procedures/Policies***

Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a

learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

## **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### ***Nondiscrimination Notice***

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### ***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### ***Statement on Student Grievances***

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky

(Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guidebook. The syllabus/schedule are subject to change. If you decide that you need to drop or withdrawal from this course, it is your responsibility to complete the necessary paperwork. I will not drop you from the course if you stop attending.

## **LECTURE/ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

### **(Readings information announced in class, lecture and assignment schedule subject to change)**

Week 1: Introduction

- Mexico Post-Independence

Week 2: The First Republic and the First Takeover

- Federalism and the first Black President
- The end of Federalism

Week 3: The First Authoritarian Government

- The Mexican American War
- The End of Santa Anna's Influence

Readings: Instructor Handouts, TBA

Week 4: Fighting the French and for Modernity

- The French Intervention in Mexico
- Porfirio Díaz and the Authoritarian Push
- First Discussion

Readings: *Bad Mexicans*, Chapters 1-5

Week 5: The *Porfiriato*

- Modern Problems and Modernity
- Heading Toward Revolution

Readings: *Bad Mexicans*, Chapters 14-20

Week 6: Revolution

- Francisco Madero's War
- Villa, Zapata, and a cast of thousands
- Second Discussion

Readings: *Bad Mexicans*, Chapters 21-25

Week 7: The Next Revolution

- General Obregon's Mexico
- President Calles and the Cristero War
- Film, TBA

- First Book Analyses Due: *Bad Mexicans*

Readings: Academic articles: Alan Knight, John Mason Hart

Week 6: Reading the Revolution

- President Cardenas and the New Nationalism
- Third Discussion, “Whose Revolution?”

Week 7:

- **Midterm**

## Spring Break

Week 8: The Post-Revolutionary State

- President Ávila Camacho and Mexico’s World War
- The Rise of Mexican Cinema

Readings: *Unrevolutionary Mexico*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

Week 9: Becoming Modern

- President Alemán and the New Capitalism
- Women and the Right to Vote

Readings: *Unrevolutionary Mexico*, Chapters 5-7

Week 10: The Good Times Begin

- The 1950s
- Fourth Discussion, *Unrevolutionary Mexico*

Readings: *Unrevolutionary Mexico*, Chapters 8-9 and Conclusion

Week 11: The 1960s and “The Miracle”

- Mexico does the Olympics
- The Massacre
- Second Book Analysis Due

Readings: Carlos Fuentes, *The Good Conscience*

Week 12: Darkness Descends on “the Miracle”

- Fifth Discussion: The Good Conscience and post-WW II
- Financial Crisis

Readings: *A Narco History*, Introduction, Chapters 1-9

Week 13: The Last Decades of the PRI

- The Origins of the Narco Wars
- Film, TBA

Readings: *A Narco History*, Chapters 9-12, supplemental articles

Week 14:

- The Election of 2000
- Sixth Discussion

- Research Papers Due

Week 15: **Final Exam**