

CRN# 21209  
HIS3397: Modern Mexico  
Credit Hours: 3; Spring 2018  
Section 01: MWF 11 AM, AB4, 302  
Dr. Charles Heath / Office: AB4, 449  
Tel: 4-4430/Email: cvh003@shsu.edu  
Office Hours: MWF 1-3 PM, or by appointment  
Tentative and subject to revision



**Course Description:** This course examines the national history of Mexico during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We shall focus on the Mexican Revolution, its causes, dynamics, consequences, and legacies. The course includes lectures, class discussions, exams, response papers, and primary document analyses.

**Required Texts** (Total two books):

- Gilbert M. Joseph and Jürgen Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution: Social Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century*, Duke UP, 2013.
- Robert Chao Romero, *The Chinese in Mexico, 1882-1940*, U Arizona P, 2012.

Our course also includes both a number of readings posted on the class' Blackboard web site. *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution* is a series of essays addressing significant themes in the history of modern Mexico. I decided to use a combination of readings and this one rather short book because doing so provides you with a broader perspective than could be obtained by using a single long textbook.

**Content Objectives:** Students completing HIST 3397 should be familiar with:

1. the broad outlines of the history and culture of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Mexico
2. a basic knowledge of Mexico's political, economic, and social structures
3. a basic knowledge of cultural elements, such as religion, race, family, and gender
4. the distinguishing characteristics of various historical actors and events

### Foundational skills:

- To analyze an historical argument and identify the thesis in an historical work
- To use primary and secondary sources to develop an argument
- To demonstrate knowledge of proper periodization and multiple areas of Mexican history and to be able to make comparisons between those periods, areas, and events
- To effectively communicate important historical concepts and interpretations orally and in written form

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at SHSU. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance. Each faculty member will announce the policies for accepting late work or providing makeup examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences. Each absence after the third shall result in the reduction of the final grade by one-letter grade. Tardiness and cell phone and electronic device usage during class may be counted as an absence.

### Assignments & Due Dates

Your course grade will be based on: attendance and class participation; two primary source analyses; two article analyses; a response to *The Chinese in Mexico*; and two exams. To keep things simple (for both you and us), written assignments will always be due on Mondays. I will provide information clear instructions for each written assignment in advance. Visits to the Writing Center are highly recommended. Midterm & Final Exam: Questions and due date for exams will be provided one week in advance. Exams cover each content objectives (see above). No late exams will be accepted and will result in "F".

Ongoing	Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Monday 1/29	Map Quiz	5%
Monday 2/5	Article Analysis #1	10%
Monday 2/19	Primary Document Analysis #1	10%
Monday 3/5	Midterm Exam	10%
Monday 3/19	Source Analysis #2	10%
Monday 4/2	Article Analysis #2	10%
Monday 4/23	Book Review, <i>Chinese in Mexico</i>	10%
	Final Exam	15%

Grading:

A 90-100	B 80-89	C 70-79	D 60-69
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**Participation**: An effort to engage with the course materials, whether it's by asking or answering questions, taking charge during pair or small group work, and/or coming to office hours to talk about what you've learned.

**Primary sources**: These are the speeches, newspaper articles, government documents, music, cartoons, oral histories, etc. that tell us about the past. Without primary sources, historians wouldn't be able to do their work. You will complete a reading grid that will help you analyze two different primary sources. The reading grid will be provided.

**The use of cell phone or other electronic devices including laptops is prohibited in this class.**

**Please refrain from eating and drinking in class.**

**Gentlemen, please remove your caps.**

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of

the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. For a complete listing of the university policy, see

**University Code of Conduct and Discipline:** <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities.

**Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the class.

**Academic and Student Support Services:** A full range of services is available through the University to assist you with developing strategies for a successful academic career. They include, but are not limited to reading and writing centers, and services for students with disabilities. The [SAM Center](#) is dedicated to helping students adjust to academic life at Sam Houston State University. Services available include career testing, aid with time management, and study skills. Other student support services may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/gradcat/07-09/studsuppserv.html>

**SHSU Writing Center:** The Sam Houston Writing Center helps students become better writers and to develop more confidence in their writing abilities. Writing Center tutors provide one-on-one writing instruction. We help students learn prewriting, revising, and editing skills by working with them on the writing tasks they bring in. What WC can do for you (besides get you five (5) additional points on your paper)?

- Generate ideas for your essay
- Identify your target audience
- Organize your paper
- Improve your writing style
- Identify and correct grammatical errors

- Interpret an instructor's comments on graded papers and make suggestions on how to avoid specific problems
- Teach you proofreading techniques
- 936-294-3680  
[WCTR@SHSU.EDU](mailto:WCTR@SHSU.EDU)  
Appointments recommended!

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation online form near the end of the semester.

### **Week 1: Course Introduction, Definitions, and Geography**

January 17:

This class session is devoted to reviewing the syllabus and introduces how to read and analyze primary sources.

January 19:

Reading: Virginia Guedea, "The Process of Mexican Independence, " *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 1 (Feb., 2000) (Bb)

### **Week 2 Early National Period, *La Reforma***

**January 22, 24, 26**

Walter V. Scholes "A Revolution Falters: Mexico, 1856-1857." *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Feb., 1952). (Bb)

### **Week 3: French Intervention, Restored Republic, and The Porfiriato**

**January 29, 31, February 2**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau, 1-14

Map Quiz Monday

### **Week 4: Porfirian Modernization and Its Costs**

February 5, 7, and 9

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau, 15-36

**Due: Article Analysis #1:** Chassen-López, "A Patron of Progress: Juana Catarina Romero, the Nineteenth-Century Cacica of Tehuantepec"

### **Week 5: The Revolution Comes (and Goes), 1910 - 1913**

**February 12, 14, 16**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau, 37-54

### **Week 6: The Violent Climax of the Revolution, 1913 - 1920**

**February 19, 21, 23**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau, 55-85

**Primary Document Analysis #1 Due: Constitution of 1917**

Documentary: *Los Últimos Zapatistas*

### **Week 7: Forging and Contesting a New Nation, 1920–1932**

**February 26, 28, March 2**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau, 87-115

### **Week 8: Midterm Review**

**March 5, 7, 9**

Documentary: *El General*

Midterm Exam

**Week 9: Spring Break: March 12 - 16, ¡Orales!**

**Week 10: Resurrecting and Incorporating the Revolution, 1932–1940**

**March 19, 21, 23**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau, 117-139

**Week 11 The "Perfect Dictatorship," 1940–1968**

**March 26, 28, 30**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau 141-166

**Week 12: Embers of Revolution, 1968–2000**

**April 2, 4, 6**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau 167-196

**Article Analysis #2 Due:** Zolov, "Showcasing the 'Land of Tomorrow': Mexico and the 1968 Olympics"

Film: *Canoa*

**Begin** *Chinese in Mexico*

**Week 13 Conclusions: A Revolution with Legs**

**April 9, 11, 13**

Readings: Joseph & Buchenau 141-166

**Week 14: TBD**

**April 16, 18, 20**

**Week 15: TBD**

**April 23, 25, 27**

Due: Book Review, *Chinese in Mexico*

**Week 16: TBD**

**April 30, May 2, 4**

**Final Exam: See University Exam schedule**